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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

UNTIL after March, when the great revolutionary outbreak is expected, questions of foreign policy will continue to be the most interesting and important of the day. If Hungary can possibly be appeased, if nothing marvellous comes out of the Adriatic, and if the agitated Montenegro brings forth only an insurrectionary mouse, domestic affairs may again begin to receive some attention. But until the regular fighting season commences we must be anxious to know, above all things, whether there is to be a general set-to among the nations and "nationalities" of the European Continent (in which case England will probably not be able to play very long the part of umpire and referee, or whether treaties and combined menaces on the part of strong Governments will not have the effect, if not of preventing war altogether, at least of circumscribing it within comparatively narrow limits). At the present moment the eyes of all who are paying the least attention to the great question of the day are fixed upon Gaeta. The fate of Venetia, and perhaps even of all Italy, depended in a great measure on the possibility of that fortress holding out for a few weeks longer. But Gaeta has capitulated, and with its fall goes the hope of the reactionary party that, the time for commencing operations in Venetia having arrived, the actual masters of the province would provoke or precipitate a conflict with its would-be deliverers when, every available soldier in the Sardinian army being required for the new war, General Cialdini would be compelled to raise the siege of Gaeta. Then it appeared probable that Francis II. would be welcomed back to Naples with something like enthusiasm. Such a restoration would have delighted the old hangers-on of the Court, all the most aristocratic of the nobles, and the great majority of the lowest and laziest class; while no doubt the shopkeepers would have looked upon the re-establishment of Monarchy—with or

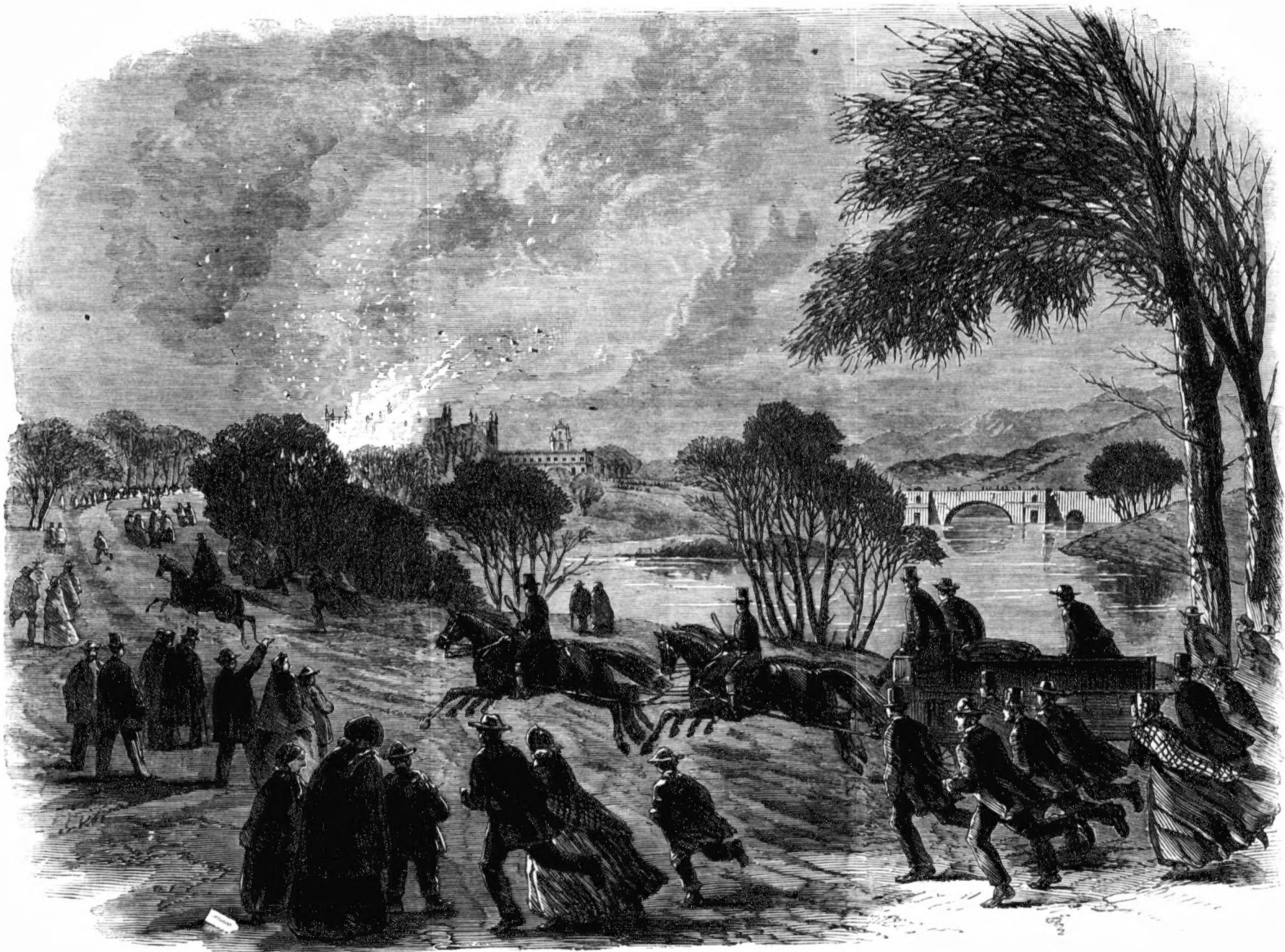
without a Constitution—as something infinitely preferable to the continuance of anarchy.

In a country without patriotism and public spirit the cruelties of any despot who may happen to govern it are not judged as they are abroad in a land where every citizen is more or less a politician. In England we all sympathise with a man who is persecuted for his political opinions, because here the liberty to discuss political questions freely is looked upon almost as one of the essential conditions of life. But in despotic countries the great mass of the people take no interest in State affairs, and, consequently, feel no great pity for those who bring upon themselves the hostility of Government by censuring its acts. This, we are convinced (not from hearsay, but from actual observation), is the secret of the strength of many of the despotic Governments. "The people" hate oppression when it comes to them in the shape of excessive taxation; and, in that case, they all suffer alike and may present a formidable resistance. But they are not indignant (as they would naturally be in a constitutional country) when one of their body, for the simple expression of a political opinion, is thrown into irons and imprisoned in a dark and noisome dungeon—partly because they do not care for politics, and partly for the very mean and selfish, yet perfectly intelligible, reason that the offence so rigidly and vindictively punished is not likely ever to be committed by themselves.

It now appears that Francis II. played the best game that was offered to his hand. His retreat to Gaeta was no cowardly flight, as was at first supposed, but a masterly change of position. He has lost the game, it is true; but, when we consider how strong a reactionary temper has shown itself in Naples since he intrenched himself within the walls of Gaeta, and how coldly Victor Emmanuel's successes are looked upon by more than one great Power, it must be confessed that King Francis had excellent chances of regaining

his throne. They were certainly too good to be thrown away, and, though for months past he had been urged by our principal newspapers (not much studied by him, we imagine) to surrender Gaeta without delay, this was not advice which he might have been expected to take. It is very well to say now that the siege of Gaeta has been "a useless conflict;" so it has proved indeed, and we are far from wishing the result otherwise; but the fact that the siege was prolonged by the open encouragement of France, that a reactionary rising threatened to embarrass the Sardinians, and that, had King Francis been able to hold out for a month longer, he might have profited by a general renewal of the war, excuse his resistance, or prove, at any rate, that it was not carried on to satisfy a mere point of honour.

It is satisfactory to know that in Prussia a majority of the Chamber have pronounced in favour of leaving Italian affairs to settle themselves. The unification of Italy, says Baron von Vincke and his supporters, is a project in no way dangerous to Prussia or to Germany. On the other hand, says Baron von Schleinitz, the Prussian Minister of Foreign Affairs, the adoption by the Chamber of a resolution condemning the policy of Austria, and leaving that country to its fate, will be interpreted as a sign that Germany is divided against itself. Indeed, Prussia seems quite willing to abandon her great rival in the hope that she may be able to place herself unchallenged at the head of the German Confederation; while Austria is suspected—indeed, is openly accused—of being quite ready to allow France to annex the long-coveted Rhine territory on condition that she herself be permitted to retain Venetia. It is taken for granted everywhere that all bargains are possible with the French Emperor; but before the left bank of the Rhine is declared French other Powers besides Austria will have to be consulted, and others besides Prussia attacked.



THE FIRE AT BLENHEIM PALACE.—(SKETCHED FROM THE GATEWAY LEADING TO WOODSTOCK.)

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

Prince Napoleon, in the Secret Committee of the Senate on Friday, is said to have delivered a speech "which was not intended for the public ear. It has, nevertheless, oozed out that his Imperial Highness spoke strongly in favour of Italian unity, and expressed a hope that the time was not far distant when the whole Italian peninsula would be consolidated into one kingdom, with Rome for its capital."

It is stated that the French Senate shows tendencies in its opinions upon foreign policy much less French than Austrian, and that the commission intrusted with the preparation of the Address are favourable to the temporal sway of the Pope, the maintenance of the Bourbon dynasty at Naples, &c.

SPAIN.

The advanced party in Spain have received a check. The proposal renewed by them in the Congress in favour of constitutional reform has been rejected by a majority of 134 voices against 35.

AUSTRIA.

The Council of Ministers have adopted the statute concerning the organisation of the Council of the Empire. The legislative powers of the Reichsrath will extend to economical questions and the taxation of the whole empire; but, as regards the other subjects, only to those which concern provinces not Hungarian.

The official *Weiner Zeitung* gives a denial to the report that differences of opinion on questions of principle prevail in the Ministry.

The assembly of the Comitatus of Pesth has unanimously voted an address to the King, which says:—"The Royal rescript has destroyed the confidence which had been created by the Imperial diploma of October last. The law prohibits the payment of taxes until they have been voted by the Diet. Force alone could remove the citizens from the lawful ground they have taken up. An unreserved return to constitutional life alone can save the King and the country."

The municipality of Pesth has resolved upon re-establishing without any modification the laws of 1848 in reference to corporations and guilds. The Court Chancellor has refused to comply with the request of this body to assemble the Hungarian Diet at Pesth instead of Buda. The Pesth municipality has also resolved upon changing the public school (Realschule) into a Hungarian school, and has ordered the dismissal of those of the elementary teachers who are not acquainted with the Magyar language.

The Comitatus of Honth is proceeding to levy a domestic impost—namely, an impost decreed by the Comitatus itself without the concurrence of Government, and applied to its own purposes. This is an act of complete defiance to the diploma which declared the establishment of those provincial imposts without the authority of the Government equivalent to an act of high treason.

Some of the Austrian papers are emphatic in their denunciation of the course pursued by the Prussian Chamber with regard to Von Vincke's resolution.

The Conference of Karlsburg, in Transylvania, have determined upon addressing the Government to demand the execution of the laws of 1848, the passing of a new electoral law, and the establishment of a separate Constitution in Transylvania, and its representation in a Diet of its own. The project for the union of Transylvania with Hungary received the most determined opposition.

PRUSSIA.

A letter from Berlin of the 4th says that after the adoption by the Chamber of the amendment relative to Italy all the Ministers offered their resignations to the King, but they were not accepted.

DENMARK.

Danish organs still raise their voices with anything but pacific notes. The *Bertingske Tidende* publishes an article in reply to certain London journals which had urged the legal powers of the Confederation. The Danish paper declares that Denmark is fully justified in regarding "Federal execution" in Holstein as an act of hostility, and would be entitled to proceed in conformity with those views.

A deputation of students from Schleswig waited upon the Danish War Minister a few days since to present an address, in which they offered to place themselves at his disposal in the event of war breaking out. The Minister expressed his thanks for the offer, and observed that the occupation of Holstein by Federal troops would possibly cause a war with Germany, in which, perhaps, all Europe would be involved.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

The Governments of Russia and France appear to have come to an arrangement on the course of policy to be pursued in the East, and are now acting in unison. Russia has addressed a note to the Porte complaining of the continued oppression of the Christians, and demanding a conference. The Government press of both countries teem with accounts of cruelties said to be endured by the Christians at the hands of the Druses and Turks, and advocate the necessity of the prolongation of the French occupation of Syria. The Austrian Cabinet is said to agree with the British Government in thinking that the evacuation of Syria by the French at the beginning of March is desirable.

A letter in the *Post*, dated Feb. 2, says—

On Monday last, Prince Labanoff, the Russian Minister, presented to the Porte a very strong note from Prince Gortschakoff, in reply to the recent report of the Grand Vizier on his Roumelian mission. In this document the Russian Government reiterates its assertions as to the grievous abuses endured by the Christian population of the empire, and, as fully as diplomatic decency permit, gives the lie to Mehemet Kiprishi's statements to the contrary. In very plain terms it characterises his Highness's imputations of blame to the superior Greek clergy as hollow and illusory, and more insinuates that the whole inquiry, both in its inception and its conduct, was a sham.

The Porte has replied to the Russian note, reasserting the truth of the Grand Vizier's report. Sir Henry Bulwer takes the part of the Porte.

Russia is said to be forming an army at Tiflis.

Prince Couza has addressed a note to the agent of the Principalities at the Ottoman Court, and forwarded a copy to the representatives of the great Powers which signed the Treaty of Paris. The object of the note is to appeal against the suspicions which the Turkish Government entertain with regard to the good faith of the Principalities, and which Prince Couza declares to be wholly unjust. Especially he complains of being suspected of connivance as regards the recent entry of vessels laden with arms into Galatz, and to the seizure of which he was urged by the British agents. No one, he declares, had so great an interest as he in causing the neutrality of the territory to be respected. He hopes that henceforth his relations with the Sublime Porte may be placed on a footing of mutual confidence.

The Montenegrians have made an attack on Nickisch, but have been repulsed.

AMERICA.

A special message has been written by the President relative to the resolutions of the Virginian Legislature for a peaceful settlement of the existing differences. The resolutions invite all States, slaveholding and non-slaveholding, to appoint commissioners to meet, at Washington, similar commissioners appointed by Virginia, to consider, and if possible agree on, some suitable adjustment. One of the resolutions requests the President to agree to abstain in the meantime from any act calculated to produce a collision of arms between the States and the Federal Government. The President expresses his conviction that he does not possess the requisite power,

and that Congress alone can exercise it. "However strong may be my desire to enter into such an agreement, I am convinced that I do not possess the power. Congress, and Congress alone, under the war-making power, can exercise the discretion of agreeing to abstain from any and all acts calculated to produce a collision of arms between this and any other Government. It would, therefore, be a usurpation for the Executive to attempt to restrain their hands by an agreement in regard to matters over which he has no constitutional control." The President recommends Congress to abstain from passing any law calculated to produce a collision during the contemplated general assembly at Virginia, which he trusts may be the destined means of perpetuating the Union.

The secession ordinance had been passed in the Louisiana Convention by a vote of 113 yeas against 17 nays. A resolution declaring the navigation of the Mississippi to be free to all friendly Powers was also passed unanimously. The Louisiana State troops had seized the United States' Marine Hospital at New Orleans and had ordered the immediate removal of the patients, the hospital being required for the troops of the State. It was asserted that Colonel Hayne had again been instructed peremptorily to demand the surrender of Fort Sumter. Texas was likely to go for immediate secession. As she is peopled so largely by emigrants from the cotton States, and as she must naturally be overawed by her powerful neighbours, this result was to be expected. A deputation of New York merchants and bankers had arrived at Washington, to try their hand at the work of compromise.

INDIA.

The disastrous effects of the famine in the north-west of India appear to increase. The *Friend of India* says:—

The famine which so long threatened the north-west is now a sad reality. It is most severely felt in the districts around Meerut and Agra. Government are making every effort to relieve the people by affording labour to those able to work, and direct assistance to the aged and helpless.

Beyond this news, the late mail brings no intelligence of public importance.

CHINA AND JAPAN.

News from China is again satisfactory. The Chinese Government had paid the second instalment of the indemnity. Although the cold at Tien-Tsin was very intense, the health of the troops continued good. Lord Elgin had not left Shanghai up to the 23rd of December.

In the summary of the *China Mail* we read:—

From the Consular notifications it is seen that the Treaty of Tien-Tsin has already come into operation, though neither the treaty nor the convention are believed by the Chinese in the south to be authentic documents, and they have not been published in the usual manner by the Governor-General of Kwang-Tung.

We understand that an expedition will be sent up the Yang-Tze early in the spring, with the view of opening up that river.

The garrison at Tien-Tsin is now settling down into comfortable quarters. The 31st were located inside the south gate, the 6th inside the east, and the artillery and military trains in different yamuns all along the street which runs from the east to the west gates. The 67th were stationed on the south bank of the grand canal, just outside the north-east part of the city wall; and Fane's Horse were in the south-east suburb. The French and British Embassies were in two of the best places in Tien-Tsin, on the west side of the river, and but a short distance from the city wall. The French troops had taken up their quarters on the east side of the Peiho and the north of the grand canal.

Some information has just been received which tends to the belief that the late collision in Japan between the native and the foreign authorities is continuing to look serious. A despatch from Yokohama was brought to the Admiral while lying at the mouth of the Peiho, in consequence of which he departed immediately to Japan.

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

The intelligence from New Zealand is meagre, owing, as it would appear, to a portion of General Pratt's force at Taranaki being required for the defence of Auckland. Hostilities against the chief William King had not been resumed. The weather had been unfavourable for fighting in the bush—a mode of warfare which, under the most favourable circumstances, is extremely harassing to the soldiers, and at the same time full of danger. But the chief reason why warlike operations were suspended was that a portion of General Pratt's troops were required at Auckland, an apprehension existing that the defeat of the Waikatos at the battle of Mahoeahi would lead to a general rising of that tribe. Reinforcements, amounting to 500 men, had arrived at Auckland, and would, no doubt, be dispatched to the seat of war.

The following is the list of the new Ministry at Melbourne:—Chief Secretary, Mr. Heales; President of Board of Lands and Survey, Mr. Brooke; Treasurer, Mr. Verdon; Commissioner of Public Works, Mr. J. S. Johnston; Commissioner of Customs, Mr. Anderson; Commissioner of Railways, Mr. Loader; Minister of Mining Affairs, Mr. Humfray; Attorney-General, Mr. Ireland.

A new goldfield has been reported in North Gipps Land, and a rush on an unusually large scale has taken place in a locality in the Maryborough district, known as "Mackinnon's Station." Another goldfield in the direction of the Owens has been reported, and a fourth new field is announced in Kilmore district. Quartz-crushing, however, is rapidly taking the place of alluvial mining, and is extending over all the mining districts.

From Sydney the news is unimportant. The great gold interest is in a very healthy state.

Two children died in London last week through eating poisonous confectionery.

DISASTROUS FIRE.—On Saturday morning a fire broke out in Park-road, Peckham, which was not extinguished till six houses were destroyed. There appears to have been some very culpable mismanagement in regard to water, as an hour and a half elapsed before the engines could be supplied after they had arrived on the ground.

THE OBSERVER has good reason to believe that it is the intention of the Secretary of State for War to withdraw the obnoxious circular of the 7th ultimo prohibiting the use of any other than Government rifles, and ordering the deposit of arms by the volunteers in their respective armouries every evening after drill.

THE LORDS OF THE ADMIRALTY have concluded a contract with the Low Moor, the Bowling, the Butterly, and some other ironwork companies for the supply of the massive wrought-iron beams, armour-plats, and other portions of the ironwork for the iron-clad steamer about to be commenced at Chatham Dockyard.

THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION has established annual competitive trials of small-bore rifles. On Wednesday the trial of this year was to have taken place; but it was found that no rifles but those sent in by the Whitworth Rifle Company had been entered for competition.

FRENCH FINANCE.—Political papers are now all the rage in Paris, the last of which is a paper in the *Revue des Deux Mondes* on the "Finances of the Empire." The writer is M. Casimir Perier, a relative of the well-known Minister of that name. The paper affords a most alarming view of the French finances. It shows that the public debt, which in 1814 amounted only to 63,000,000 (francs) of Rentes, reached 164,000,000 in 1830, 176,000,000 in 1843, and now amounts to 315,000,000—that is to say, it has very nearly doubled under the Imperial regime. Thirty-three years of constitutional government only added 113,000,000 of Rentes to the public debt—the four years of the Republic and the eight years of the Empire have added to it 139,000,000. The budgets have increased almost in the same proportion as the public debt. The budget of 1861 is estimated at 1,808,000,000. Louis Philippe's last budget (1847) was 1,452,000,000, a difference of upwards of fourteen millions sterling. On the budget of 1861, which was represented in the Emperor's speech as being "in equilibrium," M. Perier says:—"It is every day more difficult to understand how any one could have entertained the visionary idea that the budget of 1861 was evenly balanced. It borrows 137 millions of francs from the sinking fund, raises twenty-five millions by a new tax on alcohol, and, without the various extraordinary resources which enable a fictitious equality to be established between the receipts and expenses, would offer a deficit of more than 200 millions (23,000,000)."

THE ADMIRALTY.—There is to be no Board of Construction at the Admiralty. Rear-Admiral Robert Spencer Robinson took his seat on Saturday as Comptroller of the Navy, and will, in conjunction with the heads of existing departments, transact the business of the office, in the same manner as did his predecessor, Sir Baldwin Walker. Admiral Robinson's appointment differs from that of Sir Baldwin inasmuch as it is only held for a period of five years, but renewable at the discretion of the Lords of the Admiralty.

AFFAIRS OF ITALY.

SURRENDER OF GAETA.

When resumed, the bombardment of Gaeta was pursued with such vigour by the Sardinians, and the explosion of a magazine told so seriously on the besieged, that on the 8th inst. they demanded an armistice. General Cialdini consented, accompanying his consent with an offer to take charge of some of the sick and wounded, as the hospitals of Gaeta are overcrowded. Two steamers, it is alleged, were on the point of leaving to fetch away some of the wounded, when Cialdini learned that the terms of the armistice were being broken by the garrison endeavouring to repair the breaches and work the batteries. He at once broke off all communication with the place, declaring that he would make no more concessions, that the bombardment should be resumed on the following day, and that no flag of truce would be recognised, except for the capitulation of the fortress. Accordingly the fire recommenced, and the garrison soon found themselves reduced to the last extremity. Francis II. then accepted General Cialdini's offer to treat, while refusing to grant an armistice. Accordingly a mixed commission was appointed to discuss and arrange the terms for the capitulation of the fortress. In the meantime, the firing was not suspended, and the Sardinians having again succeeded in exploding one of the enemy's magazines, the destruction of a large portion of their works, Gaeta at length surrendered. The telegram which gives us this information is dated Feb. 13, and runs as follows:—

Gaeta has capitulated.

To-morrow morning General Cialdini will occupy Mont Orlando and all the fortifications, and after the departure of the Royal family he will occupy the city.

The garrison remain prisoners of war until Messina and Civitella del Tronto shall be surrendered.

The King and the Queen, with their suite, will depart on board the French ship *Mouette*.

GARIBALDI.

Some of the French papers state that communications have been received from friends of Garibaldi denying that the Italian hero has entered into an engagement to act in Hungary. It may be regarded, however, as a fact of some significance that several Frenchmen enrolled in the Garibaldian free corps, and at present in France, have received, according to the *Patrie* and the *Pays*, orders to join their corps at Genoa.

To a letter from the President of the Committee of Venetian Emigration at Milan, asking Garibaldi whether he would accept the offer of a marble bust of his deceased wife, executed by a Venetian sculptor in a Venetian town, Garibaldi replied as follows:—"While I recognise the pledge of affection which the citizens of Venetia would give me, in their offer of a bust of my deceased and beloved wife, I beg you to devote the sum designed for that object to the liberation of that dear part of Italy."

THE PAPAL STATES.

Telegrams from Rome describe Mgr. de Merode as still active in organising reactionary movements. Nearly 500 Bourbon soldiers armed by him crossed the Papal frontiers on the 9th, taking the direction of Caroli, where expeditions of brigands had been organised, to whom Cardinal Antonelli had sent 1500 muskets.

Although the Carnival has passed off quietly, disturbances are not infrequent in Rome. A popular movement had broken out at San Marino, which was not suppressed without bloodshed.

The Russian Minister at Rome, M. de Wolkowsky, being detained there by illness, another Russian diplomatic agent was sent to Gaeta with the Grand Cordon of the order of the White Eagle conferred by the Emperor of Russia upon Francis II. and the Bourbon Princes.

PRUSSIA AND ITALY.

We have now full reports of the debate in the Prussian Chambers, which ended in a vote of 159 to 146 in favour of the opinion that it was not to the interest of Prussia to oppose Italian unity. The following were Baron von Schleinitz's remarks:—

As many speakers have expressed their opinion upon the Italian question I think it right to explain the view taken of this important question by the Government. The Government has not the slightest motive or will against Italy—against a people who once dominated the world, who have produced great things in art and science, and written their names in glorious characters in the history of civilisation. Nor do we object that a people with such a past and so well characterised a nationality should attempt to obtain a political complexion assuring that nationality, and making good its significance. But, without depreciating in any manner whatsoever the importance of the national idea, we do not think that we can attribute to it the absolute value which has been claimed for it in Italy—a value before which everything else is to give way, the law of nations as well as the right of treaties, all interests, the highest as well as the lowest. Here, with the exception perhaps of those members who do not consider themselves as at home in the national idea, no one will attribute so absolute a significance to the principle of nationalities. If any one was to attempt to reconstruct the balance of power in Europe on a purely national basis he would give the signal of an endless and sanguinary struggle. There is another principle, that of non-intervention, which we cannot admit as binding and applicable under all circumstances.

Baron von Schleinitz then explained that the only position Prussia could assume was one of reserve.

M. de Vincke then rose and said:—

Certainly there cannot be any objections made to the policy of non-intervention as explained by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. It is the duty of every Government to spare the blood and property of the citizens. But, such being the case, no diplomatic intervention should have been made which is in staring contradiction to the views now advocated.

M. de Vincke then expressed his disapprobation of the Coblenz note, which, he said, was totally uncalled for, and passed severe censure on the Government for allowing the Prussian Government ship the *Loreley* to carry despatches between Messina and Gaeta in defiance of the admitted law of non-intervention:—

There is a third fact (continued M. de Vincke) which I must dwell upon, and which is contrary to the policy of "non-intervention" now admitted. Prussia, in concert with other Powers, requested the Emperor Napoleon to keep his fleet at Gaeta. What could have induced Prussia to take such a step? Humanity has been put forward as a plea. The best humanity would have been to put an end to a sanguinary struggle, the only result of which can be to maintain for a few weeks more a crown to a King who will never have his kingdom again. Prussia has not, then, been faithful to the principle of non-intervention; she has shown herself unfavourable to Italy. Italy will never be a conquering Power, but she will contribute greatly to the preservation of the balance of power in Europe. The Emperor Napoleon has said, "that the greatest virtue of a people was to have confidence in itself," and that France might tranquilly await the future, confident in her own strength and loyalty. This is equally applicable to Germany. Let us rejoice to rival France in the arts of peace. If she chooses to attack us she will find us sword in hand.

After saying that the French nation were easily excited, that the French Emperor once said to the Chamber of Peers that he represented a defeat ("Waterloo"), and that he believed he still entertained a hankering after the left bank of the Rhine, M. de Vincke comes to the point of what the best policy of Prussia should be. We give his arguments in one sentence—"A firm alliance with England." M. de Vincke then turns to the Italian question:—"It has been said," says he, "that the Papal State is an obstacle to the unity of Italy. I maintain that the temporal power of the Pope is baneful to the Church. It has been said that it is in the interests of Germany that Austria should still hold Venetia. It is said that German commerce will suffer by the loss of Venetia. The whole question may be reduced to this—Italy without Venice will always be under the thumb of France, and consequently, will be a continual cause for war in Europe, because Italy without Venice will be an incomplete and vulnerable State, always trying to close its wounds."

As long as Venetia is not united to Italy, Austria can always threaten Lombardy. All that we ask from our Government is not to make hasty promises in favour of Austria. The foreign policy of France, which was the same under the Republic as under the Empire in this question, proves that

France has no interest in Italy acquiring Venetia—that she does not desire a strong Italy. She will offer her hand to Austria (which Austria will willingly grasp), and give her Venetia for the left bank of the Rhine.

M. von Schleichtz made a few observations in reply. He said:—

As regards our relations with England, I may observe that England might not attach the same importance to an alliance with Prussia unless extended to the whole of Germany, and unless the "dualism" between the two great German Powers should cease to neutralise completely the influence of Germany in Europe. As regards Venetia. The question has been mooted whether Prussia, for the maintenance of that province, would throw her sword into the scale. As I have already observed, that question does not touch us, perhaps never will do so. We cannot, however, now state our intentions as regards the resolutions which Prussia might think fit to adopt. I will confine myself to the statement that, as regards this question, Prussia has not taken any engagements whatsoever.

Fourteen members of the Right Centre have thought it necessary to publish an explanation why they voted in favour of M. de Vincke's amendment on the Italian question. In this explanation they state that they voted for the amendment, not because they were opposed to the explanations given by the Minister of Foreign Affairs on the policy of the Government, but, on the contrary, because they approved them. They looked upon a positive declaration of the Chamber on the most important question that agitates Europe as indispensable on account of its gravity and of the dignity of the National Parliament. They consider the principle of non-intervention in Italian affairs as necessary, because they desire that this principle shall be respected by foreign Powers in German affairs. They believe that a strong Italy, independent of all foreign influence, will be advantageous to the interests of Germany and of the whole of Europe. They wish to remove the supposition that Prussia assumed an attitude unfavourable to the Constitution of Italy, because, in the contrary case, Italy would be thrown into the arms of France, whose power would thus be increased. It was their wish that the adopted resolution should strengthen the position of the Government on this question without prejudice to ulterior combinations and decisions, should they be called for by events touching the interests of Prussia and of Germany by the overthrow of the balance of power in Europe or from any other cause.

THE EMPEROR AND THE POPE.

AMONG the documents which the French Government has lately laid before the Senate and Legislative body are the despatches which passed between M. de Thouvenel, the French Foreign Minister, and the Duc de Grammont, French Ambassador at Rome, during the early part of last year. These documents contain a history of a portion of the negotiations between the French Government and Cardinal Antonelli, when the former endeavoured to induce the Pope to consent to a compromise which would give to the King of Sardinia the government of the three Legations, but only under the form of a Vicariat, which Victor Emmanuel should exercise in the name of the Pope. Between this compromise and the absolute annexation of the Legations to Sardinia the French Minister argued that the choice of the Papal Government must lie. His arguments were met by Cardinal Antonelli with a determined opposition. One of the Duc de Grammont's despatches contains a long and interesting account of a conversation which took place at the beginning of last March between Cardinal Antonelli and himself upon the subject. The Cardinal emphatically declared that the Pope would yield to no compromise—that in his eyes there existed no difference between the absolute loss of the Legations by annexation and their "tempered loss" by the adoption of the suggested Vicariat: it was a question of principle, and the Pope was not free to abdicate his rights. Let the provinces be evacuated of all Piedmontese forces—let them be placed in the same position as when the Austrians quitted them, and "we will charge ourselves with re-establishing the Pontifical authority there." Moreover, Antonelli demanded that Rome should be left free to form relations with and make appeals to other Catholic Powers. The last word of the Papal Minister was, that the Pope would never compromise. Other despatches contain projects of conciliation suggested by France, and attempts to obtain promises of reform, and the refusal of the Papal Courts to make any pledge unless restored to the possession of the provinces annexed to Sardinia.

THE BONAPARTE TRIAL.

THE Bonaparte marriage case was resumed at Paris yesterday week. M. Merveilleux Davignon, the Public Minister, summed up, on the part of the Crown, in an impartial speech. In reviewing the arguments he agreed with nearly all the propositions of M. Berryer, and dissented from those of M. Allou. He showed that the decrees of Napoleon I. and the Senatus Consultum not only did not affect the validity of the marriage, but were, in many particulars, illegal, unconstitutional, and ineffective. As to the plea that the marriage was clandestine, he did not consider it was borne out in the slightest degree; neither did the event of the publication of the bans in France work out the nullity of the marriage. In all respects he thought the marriage was a legal one, and that both parties had so considered it till the absolute will of the great Napoleon had worked an estrangement in the mind of his brother Jerome. The only point remaining, M. Davignon said, was the effect of the two sentences pronounced in 1856 by the *conseil de famille*. The *conseil* had decided against the validity of the marriage contracted in 1803, but also adjudged that M. Bonaparte was entitled to bear that name. The matter was thus *res judicata*, and, therefore, urged the learned gentleman, the Court is debarred from further action, being bound by a previous decision. If so ordered, the point of *res judicata* may afford the Judges a pretext for giving their judgment against Mrs. Patterson and her son; but a decision on the merits must be one in favour of those parties. The judgment was to be delivered yesterday.

M. Berryer has registered a formal protest against the document pleaded by the opposite counsel purporting to be an opinion of the American Bench and Bar, represented by Mr. Robert Howe Gould, a volunteer advocate of the Palais Royal against the Baltimore family. The Paris correspondent of the *Globe* says:—"That gentleman's letter, read in court, has filled our American residents with indignation, as well it might; but, unfortunately for the writer, it set the bailiffs on the alert, and he was captured for forging a bill of exchange on the Paris Swan and Edgar, Delille and Co. He is now a resident in the Horse-monger-lane Gaol of the metropolis. It is found that he had been sentenced already to a month's duration in 1859 by the Police Court for some other performance."

The Paris correspondent of the *Brussels Independence* states that an interview has taken place within the last few days between the Emperor and the young Bonaparte, grandson of Prince Jerome by his first wife, Miss Patterson, and whose father is the plaintiff in the action which has occupied so much public attention. This interview has led to the supposition that before the decision of the Court is pronounced some friendly arrangement will be effected.

POPULAR ELECTION IN FRANCE.

M. LEONCE DE GUIRAUD, said to be a Legitimist, was a candidate for the representation of certain electoral districts—the arrondissements of Limoux and Narbonne, in the departments of the Aude—in the month of December last; and he complains in a petition to the Legislative Corps, and proves his complaint by documents, that he was defeated by means of corruption, intimidation, and other flagrant acts of illegality. He was opposed by M. Dabeaux, Prefect of the Department. We take at hazard a few instances from the protest of M. Guiraud:—

At Limoux, the commune of the Mazorolles, where twenty-four electors declare solemnly, and are ready to declare before the Tribunal, that they voted for me on the Sunday, and twenty-nine more declare that they voted for

me on the Monday, I had only thirty-six suffrages—that is, seven instead of the twenty-four who voted on the Sunday. At Narbonne, where eighty electors declare they are ready to attest that they all gave me their votes, only forty tickets in my favour issued from the urn. At Quillan, from the fear inspired by certain agents, M. Dabeaux (the ex-prefect) had 505 votes, and I only forty-two; and yet sixty workmen of the neighbouring iron-foundries declare that they voted for me. Moreover, the most respectable people of the town—such as M. L., wood merchant; M. C., notary, ex-Mayor; M. F., wood merchant; M. J., a rich proprietor, and former member of the Council-General, with several others, gave me their votes, as well as the persons in their employment. How explain, after this, the forty-two votes? The want of written proofs imposing on me great reserve, I can only submit the fact to the Chamber. The Mayor, proud of the result, demands, they say, the Cross of the Legion of Honour. We must not lose sight of the fact, and we cannot too often repeat, that what renders these violations easy and frequent is the want of urns, and disregard of the letter of the electoral law. What guarantee does the ballot offer when the tickets are deposited in a pot, as at Condom; in a corn measure, as at Gueytes; in a table drawer, as at Luc; or in the waistcoat pocket of the Mayor, as at Donasue?

THE INDIAN PRIZE MONEY.

WE have at length to congratulate the country and the service on the distribution of the Delhi and Lucknow prize money. After many a brave soldier has fallen a victim to hard work, or climate, or ill-cured wounds, the Royal warrants appear in the *Gazette*, and tardy justice is to be done. On the 12th of May, 1857, the insurrection broke out in Delhi, and on the 14th of September the place was retaken. The victorious army has more than 31 lacs to divide. The booty is stated in the *Gazette* to consist of "Crown and other jewels, coin, shawls, arais, elephants, horses, ordnance, and other property," which, being duly sold, produced the sum mentioned. Four General officers, who successively held the chief command operating against Delhi, divide between them that twentieth part which falls to the lot of the Commander-in-Chief. They are the late Sir Henry Barnard, Major-General Reed, Sir Archdale Wilson, and the late Major-General Penny. These personally, or their representatives, receive £17,000 between them, to be divided "in proportion to the number of days during which each of them respectively held the chief command." The rest is distributed in the usual way, according to the pay of the recipient—from the Major-Generals, who receive 76 shares each, to the privates, who receive only one share. It may surprise some of our readers that these vast disproportions should exist, but the custom of prize distribution is traditional, and is as invariable as the laws of the Medes and Persians.

Lucknow was taken on the 16th of March, 1858, and the booty, being sold, produced the sum of 14 lacs 82,645 rupees. This sum is to be divided between all the troops which took part in the operations, including all the troops at first intrenched in the Residency, the force under Sir H. Havelock, the force which held Cawnpore during the final operations against Lucknow, and the force under the personal command of Sir Colin Campbell. One-twentieth part of the whole goes to the Commander-in-Chief, and the rest is distributed in shares, from the Lieutenant-Generals, who receive 152 shares each, to the privates, who receive one share. It may be said that the prize money at the two places amounts to about half a million sterling.

IRELAND.

"MURDER AT TRALE."—At a place called Gortbrack, about three miles from Tralee, a dreadful murder has been committed. The victim is Patrick Fitzgerald, a discharged soldier, who had been residing with his aunt on a small farm. It was discovered that the deceased had been carried off to a place twenty-three miles distant, and there buried. The body was exhumed, and a post-mortem examination proved that the unfortunate man must have been brutally murdered. John Mason, a nephew of Fitzgerald, is apprehended on suspicion.

FOOD RIOTS IN LIMERICK.—At Limerick on Monday a large body of idle labourers and mechanics turned out to demand food or work. They waited on the Mayor, to whom they represented their distressed condition, and his Worship promised to do all in his power to set on foot the works of the new embankment below the docks. Not satisfied with this assurance, the labourers continued to parade the streets, to the fear and apprehension of the shopkeepers; and a special meeting of the magistrates was held to make arrangements for preserving the peace. Shouting and yelling went on, and threatening language was used. The police patrolled the city in batches.

THE EXTRAORDINARY ATTEMPT TO MURDER IN DUBLIN.—The case of Joseph Dwyer, charged with an attempt to murder a porter for the sake of stealing the goods which he carried, by inveigling him into a stable and shooting at him over a grave, came before the Court of Oyer and Terminer in Dublin on Saturday. The prisoner pleaded guilty, and affidavits were put in with a view to show that he had been for some time past labouring under insanity. Mr. Justice Christian, after dwelling at some length on the extraordinary nature and atrocity of the crime with which the prisoner was charged, sentenced him to twenty years' penal servitude. The prisoner was quite unmoved during the delivery of the sentence.

THE PROVINCES.

A PLAGUE OF TOADS.—At a meeting of the Bath Council last week, the Cold Water Committee (as it is curiously styled) recommended the erection of palings round the reservoir at Bathaston, at a cost of £95. The object was to prevent the continual descent of toads. The spawn of these animals was the creation of such nuisances that they got into the water-pipes, and caused a great deal of expense. The animals came from the land, and the palings were such as the engineer advised should be adopted. The report was agreed to.

PERISHED IN THE SNOW.—A severe storm of snow, sleet, and hail occurred in the West Riding of Yorkshire on Friday and Saturday last, and among the casualties recorded is that of the death of a youth, about fifteen years of age. He was the son of a farmer living at Timble Great, about six miles from Oley. On Friday evening, about five o'clock, he left Oley on his return to his parents' house; but he became so benumbed with the excessive cold that he was found all but dead, midway between the two places, about eight o'clock the same evening. He died a very few minutes after he was discovered.

ATTEMPTED BURGLARY.—Mrs. Hallam, a beerhouse-keeper at Manchester, descended to the kitchen in her night-dress, intending to dress by the fire. On walking into the kitchen she saw two men, barefooted and masked, sitting by the fire drinking, and about them were a number of articles which they had tied up, intending to carry off. The burglars extinguished the candle, and escaped by the back door, after receiving a blow with a poker from Mrs. Hallam, to which one of them replied by hitting her on the head with his boots. She called out "Murder!" "Thieves!" and her son, a young man, who had heard the struggle, opportunely made his appearance in his shirt and nightcap. The thieves were running as fast as they could down the caseway at the side of the railway leading towards Ashley-lane; but, understanding the state of the case from his mother, the son took up the poker and gave chase. A young man, named France, on his way to work, who saw him suddenly emerge from the passage, with the exclamation, "Has't seen 'em?" was so startled by the apparition that he took to his heels in fright. A smart run along the caseway, a blow with the poker, and a triumphant grip, and France was the prisoner of the intrepid Hallam. On being brought into the house, Mrs. Hallam at once exonerated France from any share in the business, and on her son asking him why he had run, France retorted, "Why would thou ha' stop't? When I saw thee standing in th' shirt with th' poker in th' hand, I thought some madman had escaped." The thieves escaped.

THE INUNDATIONS IN HOLLAND.—The committee got up in England in behalf of the unfortunate victims of the inundations in Holland report that the inundations bear no parallel to former ones for the number of victims and the destruction of property. "Guelderland, North Brabant, South Holland, and Overijssel, are wholly under water. In one province forty-four, in another sixty-six, villages have been swept away, and no vestige remains to indicate the spots that were but a few days before the seats of industry and prosperity. The damage caused is almost incalculable. At this moment Holland presents a terrible aspect. The lamentations of the inhabitants, the unceasing tolling of the bells day and night to indicate the danger, the shrieks of despair of parents who behold their children being drowned in their sight, of the women who see their husbands carried away by the furious waves, waggons filled with a cargo of half-naked, emaciated beings, to be conveyed to a safer spot—all this forms a picture of wretchedness and desolation which the pen can but feebly delineate. The more numerous inhabitants try to relieve the unfortunate victims by the most unbounded charity. The King has contributed already nearly £7000 towards the relief of the distressed, and, moreover, shows most exemplary self-denial, and braves personal danger for the assistance of his subjects." Since this was written the floods have abated.

THE NEW INDIAN LOAN.

THE tenders for the new Indian loan of £3,000,000 were received yesterday week at the Indian Council Offices, in Victoria-street. Two rooms on the second floor, over the accountant's offices, were appropriated to the purpose; and as the parties arrived they were ushered by messengers into the outer one of these, which was used as an ante-room, where they were detained until they numbered some forty or fifty, when they were ushered into the inner room, where they handed in their sealed tenders, which were duly entered and a receipt given, and then they were passed out through another door. By the time one batch had gone through this process another would be ready, and so it continued all the morning. Some idea of the total number of tenders may be formed from the fact that some eight or ten clerks were busily engaged for upwards of two hours in opening them, noting down the amounts and prices offered, and giving the requisite receipts for the deposit money (in all cases cheques) with which they were, under the conditions laid down, accompanied.

The gross total of the tenders, estimated by the amounts of money actually lodged under the conditions, which required that every tender should be accompanied by a deposit of 2 per cent on the amount tendered for, was about £13,000,000. Of this sum £636,900 was offered at the minimum, or at £98 10s. per £100 stock, and £5,935,600 above the minimum, and at a price ranging between that and £100, which was the highest price offered. The lowest offer was £96 for a comparatively small sum; but a considerable proportion of the tenders ranged from £98 to £98 8s. These, of course, were all rejected; and, as the amount to be raised was limited to £3,000,000, so also were those which embraced the £600,000 odd at the minimum, and from the more favourable offers an amount nearly equal to £3,000,000 was taken. At 98½ a very large sum was taken, and at this price, or at an average equal to it, Messrs. Rothschild, it is said, secure no less than £950,000 of the new stock.

PROGRESS IN WEALTH.—An income-tax return has been issued which shows what progress this kingdom has been making within the last few years. The total amount of income and annual value of property assessed to the income tax in the United Kingdom has risen from £308,317,656 in 1854 to £335,730,254 in 1860. The increase of taxable income in England in the six years has been £26,348,615, and in Ireland £1,701,993; but in Scotland there has actually been a decrease of £638,080. This decrease has arisen solely from a very large falling off in the returns under Schedule D—the profits of trades and professions, &c. The income tax under that schedule in England rose from £76,215,936 in 1854 to £81,921,267 in 1860, and in Ireland from £4,621,069 to £4,891,652; but in Scotland it fell from £12,185,924 in 1854 to £8,626,111 in 1860. In 1853, after the commercial crisis at the end of 1857, it fell £2,500,000 below the previous year, and has never recovered. The income assessed under Schedule A—the annual value of lands, houses, &c.—has risen greatly in all three kingdoms. In England it was £99,274,309 in 1854, and £112,208,719 in 1860; in Scotland £11,917,791 in the former year, and £13,974,080 in the latter; in Ireland £11,767,810 and £12,893,829 respectively—an increase of almost £16,000,000 in the whole, nearly half of which is from houses, and another quarter from an increase in the profit of railways. A very large increase has taken place also in Schedule E (public offices, pensions, and stipends), from £14,445,552 in 1854 to £19,636,220 in 1860. The total income assessed to the income tax in 1860 was—in England, £282,718,049; in Scotland, £29,913,124; in Ireland, £23,099,081.

THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF CHINA.

IT was in 1644 that the Tartar Mantchous, who formerly occupied the northern districts of China, threw themselves into the flowery land, took forcible possession of Peking, and placed upon the Chinese throne their own chief, Choua-tchi, who founded the existing Tsing dynasty.

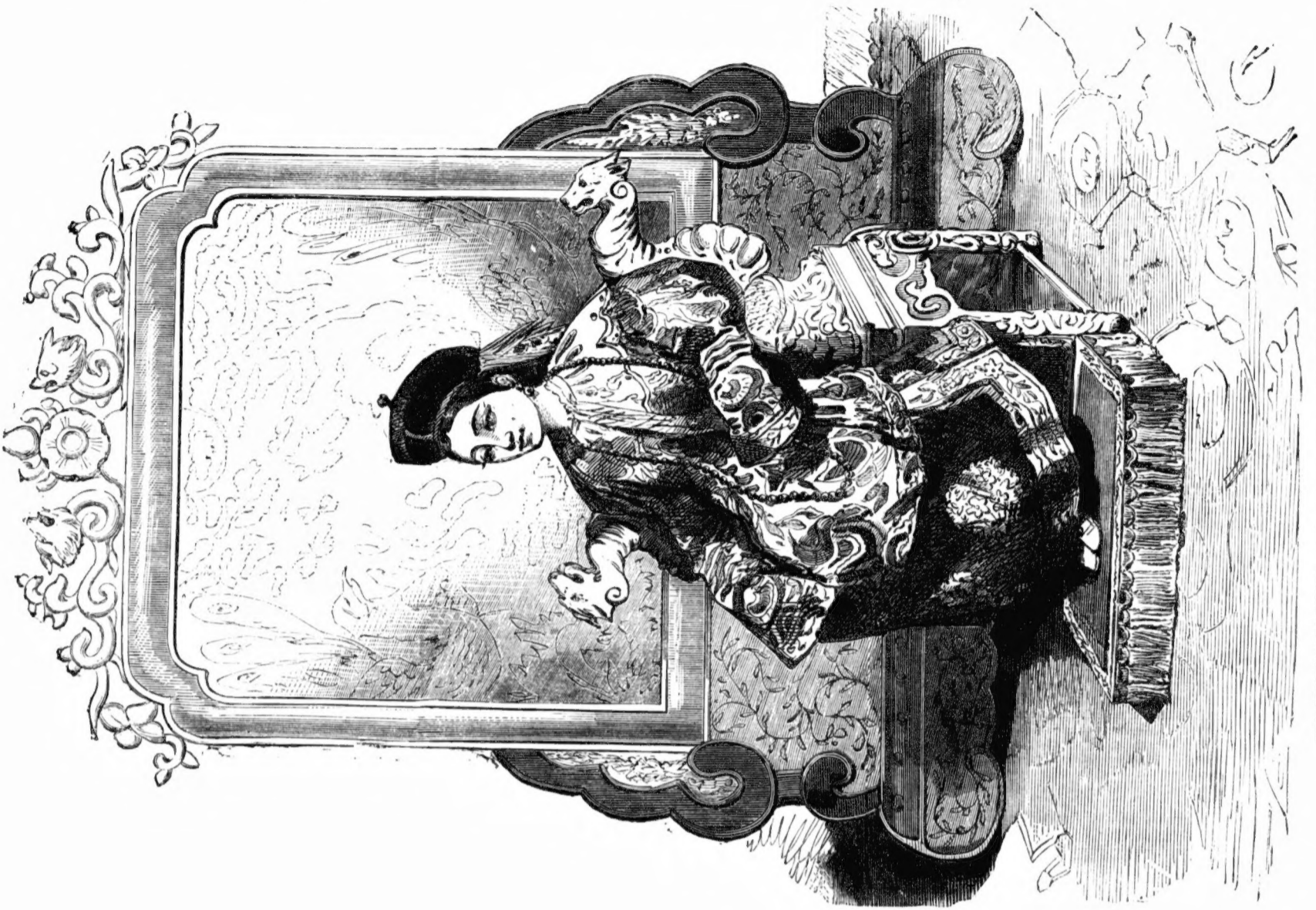
The present Emperor, Hien-foung, or Plenty, is the fourth son of Tao-kouang, whom he succeeded in February, 1850, and took the name by which he is known at the time that he assumed power, although it may be difficult to see the consistency of such an appellation amongst a people whose lives are too often one long scene of want and misery. It is true, however, that the wretchedness of the people is not absolutely attributable to him, since he found them in a condition of utter poverty, while the war on the opium question, which his father had declared against England in 1840, had utterly destroyed the prestige of Chinese arms, and burdened the nation with an additional depressing influence by compelling it to pay an indemnity to the conquerors. Then the insurrection in the province of Kouang-Si seemed to paralyse all the efforts of the Imperialists in the interior of the country; and, inasmuch as the determination of the insurgents and their leader is utterly to subvert the Mantchou dynasty and to reconstitute a Chinese Government, the cause may be considered to have a strong basis for success. It has already been argued that the only ultimate policy by which England can hope to maintain influence in China, and, indeed, the only safe course to ensure the decided free progress of the entire Chinese nation, is for her to ally herself, both by treaty and sympathy, to the insurgent leader and his Government. At all events, he has already attained an influence which may well strike terror into the corrupt Court of the Mantchou ruler, since it is founded on principles more calculated to advance than to be destroyed by cowardly tyranny and falsehood, which nothing can either check or control. The insurgent chief, while he has the reputation of being a prophet, lacks neither personal strength and courage nor a share of moral virtue, while the religion which he has adopted, though only founded on imperfect ideas of Christianity, is certainly more than a Christianised form of Paganism, since it exhibits a vitality and works a moral change amongst its followers which at once attest its power. It is singular that the first manifestation of liberty amongst the insurgents was the renunciation of the shaven head and the "pigtail," a custom imposed on the original Chinese fashion by the Tartars.

A stroke of the scissors thus became an act of high treason—a declaration of war to the death. So fast grew the numbers who flocked round the standard of the insurgent chieftain that the Court of Peking became alarmed, and sent agents everywhere to undermine the power of the man who has undertaken the task of destroying idolatry and founding a real Chinese Government, by fire and sword, if necessary. But still the cause progresses; and the chief, after having seen Nankin fall under his hands, has established it as a provisional capital till the time arrives when he shall force his way to Peking, an excursion which may have already been rendered more easy of accomplishment by the campaign of the allied forces.

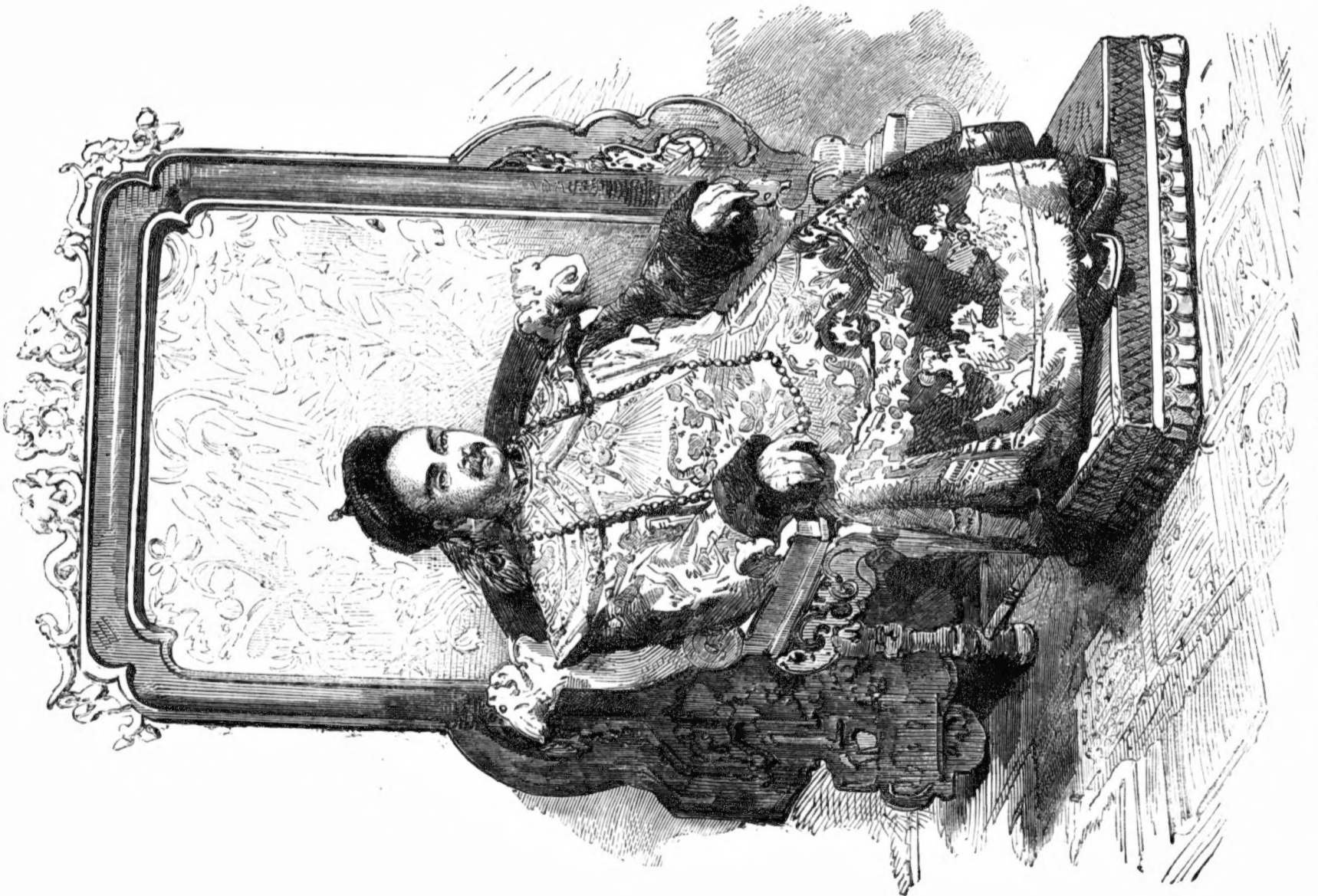
Seated on a tottering throne, Hien-foung seeks to strengthen his position by more rigorous enactments. He has, in fact, already decreed victory; and, that none may mistake his meaning, beheads every General who is so culpable as to allow himself to be beaten. Meanwhile the mandarins carry out the Imperial policy in their administration of the laws, and zealously profess ungovernable anger against the enemies of the "Son of Heaven."

The Emperor Hien-foung is now thirty years old, of middle size, and possessing a somewhat graceful figure; the whole expression of his face is imperious, but its features not unpleasant, since the peculiar obliquity of the Chinese eye is in his case relieved by the high forehead and the harmony of the face. In the midst of luxury and an enervating life he affects severe manners, and devotes himself with extraordinary energy to athletic exercises, in which he greatly excels.

The Empress is the principal of his almost innumerable wives; and, while the others are wellnigh abandoned, it is doubtless in consequence of the Emperor's attachment to athletic sports that his present Empress is held in such esteem, since she is a Tartar Princess, thoroughly capable of appreciating, and even joining, in those games of skillful daring with which her husband amuses himself. The recent entry of the allied troops proves, however, that his Majesty prefers warlike games to the game of war, and his subsequent retreat from the Imperial city, while it may give some uneasiness to the allies, who believe that he has gone to the fastnesses beyond Peking, there to prepare for a breach of the treaty, must give opportunity to the insurgents for a further advance towards the capital.



THE EMPRESS OF CHINA.—(FROM SKETCHES BY R. D. VOLONTI, OF THE MILAN MISSION.)



HIEN-FONG, THE REIGNING EMPEROR OF CHINA.

MONTA SERENA.

THE ORLANDO GATE.

ENTRANCE OF MONTA SERENA.

VIEW OF THE GULF AND ENVIRONS OF GAETA.—(FROM A SKETCH BY CONRAD GROS.)

CITADEL OF GAETA.

GULF OF GAETA.



PIEDMONTESE CAMP BEFORE GAETA.

THE fortress of Gaeta is doomed; and Francis II., bethinking himself that, after all, discretion is the better part of valour, has abandoned his threat of being buried beneath the ruins of the citadel. The shelling has done fearful damage, and the explosions of the powder-magazines within the walls of Gaeta must have caused a degree of terror and devastation not easy to imagine. The Piedmontese are not condensed in one locality. The Mount of Santa Agata, however, began to present the appearance of a regular camp, since the soldiers were mostly hardy campaigners, and, being ingenious fellows, they managed, from apparently ineffective materials, to build themselves huts both comfortable and commodious, some of them boasting the luxury of a rude floor, while others were divided into a living and a sleeping apartment. The whole place was—perhaps is—very picturesque since the trees growing here and there, as they do at the fort of Santa Agata, where the camp was situated, were generally chosen to support and shade a hut. Other regiments occupied the ruins and the new buildings on the Mola, while one was posted on San Vito, in a place of observation.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 147.

SIR E. COLEBROOKE.

Haste to the House, ye "whips"! Rush to the rescue, Brand, Dunbar, and Huguessen! for there is a ship upon the bar, and, without help, may be wrecked; or, in other words, Sir Edward Colebrooke, the mover of the Address, is in difficulties. He had studied his speech, he had arranged it all in his mind, he had jotted down notes to guide him, and thought that he was well prepared; but what with the conspicuousness of his military dress, the novelty of his position, the gravity of the occasion, the mesmeric power of those three or four hundred eyes fixed upon him, he is nervous and stammers, and without help may entirely break down.

Cheer him as his audience flag,
Brother Hiley, Brother Brand,
Cheer him when he hobbles vilely,
Brother Bragge and Brother Hiley.

So did George Canning hound on the "whips" of his day; and the advice is good for all "whips" and all times; for is it not written that the duty of all junior Lords, and Secretaries, and all Government underlings whatever, is to make a House and keep a House, and cheer the Minister? and if the Minister, then, of course, as a necessary corollary, all whom the Minister sets up? Sir Edward Colebrooke is a Scotch Baronet. He has been in the House altogether thirteen years or thereabouts (not twenty, as a contemporary reports.) He has often addressed the House from his back seat; he has always spoken sensibly, and with ease; and, but for his weak voice, would have spoken with effect; but it is one thing to speak as a private member from a back bench, and quite another to address the House from a conspicuous situation, on a set occasion, with all the members staring at you; and no wonder the hon. member felt nervous, "hobbled vilely," and nearly at times broke down. But let not our readers measure Sir Edward by this speech. The gift of speaking fluently at any time, and in all places, and under all circumstances, "from any imaginable stump," as Carlyle has it, is not a very high gift. Indeed, some of our best men in the House and out of it cannot, or at least do not, speak at all. And some of those that do are by no means fluent speakers. *Ad exemplum*, there is Sir George Cornwall Lewis though much improved of late, is still but a hobbler speaker. Whiteside, Scully, and even Patrick O'Brien, as mere speakers, would carry away the prize from Sir George in any popular assembly in the world; but mark the stuff of the right hon. Baronet's speeches, and read that book of his on "The Influence of Authority in Matters of Opinion," and mark the grasp that he has of his subject, the acuteness of intellect displayed, his learning, and the lucidity and elegance of his style, and you will at once see the folly of appraising a man's mind by the test of his talking powers. Or, take that quiet-looking man who sits on the Conservative benches, Sir Philip de Malpas Grey Egerton. In our hearing Sir Philip has never addressed the House, and probably could not make a set speech if he were to try; and yet he is a notable man, for in the science of geology he is a great authority; and it has long since been settled that, if a man can master a science and become one of its leading authorities, it may be considered as certain that he has a mind far above the minds of the common range of men. In short, some of our silent men are our best men; whilst many of our talkers are, so to speak, mere hurdygurdies, always ready to play as with the turn of a handle, but have a marvellously limited range of tunes. So let us not censure Sir Edward because on this occasion he nearly failed; nor let us measure any man's mind by the volubility of his tongue. When a gentleman complained to a nigger that the parrot which he had sold could not talk, the nigger replied, "Ah, massa, if him no talk him tink de more." And, if this be not the rule amongst parrots, it is certainly often the case amongst men.

MR. PAGET.

Mr. Paget, of Nottingham, who seconded the Address, did not get on swimmingly, as we say; but, on the whole, he acquitted himself creditably enough. A contemporary hints that the rule of selecting a country gentleman and a manufacturer to move and second the Address was in this instance departed from, for that Mr. Paget, as well as Sir Edward Colebrooke, is a country gentleman, and not engaged in trade at all. But this is a mistake, for Mr. Paget is a Nottingham manufacturer.

COSTUME.

On Thursday, as her Majesty was at Buckingham Palace, the House went with its Speaker to deliver the Address. The rule is on these occasions that the private members may go to the levee in their ordinary morning costume, but members of her Majesty's Privy Council are expected to go in the blue and gold uniform of their order. The only Privy Counsellors that came to the House on this occasion were Mr. Sotheron Estcourt and Sir John Pakington. A humorous member inquired of us whether it is always the practice to wear the cocked-hat straight over the head, "from pole to pole, due north and south," as he phrased it, or whether it might not be set a little askew—N.E. and S.S.W. We have to report that, as far as our observation goes, it is the custom to wear it due north and south. And now, speaking of costume, we may say that prior to the Reform Bill passed in 1832 there was some rule for the general costume of the House. Before dinner members appeared in morning dress; not unfrequently in top-boots. Sir Francis Burdett and old Mr. Byng's top-boots are still remembered by the more ancient officials; but after dinner honourable gentlemen were expected to appear in evening dress. This rule is, however, now entirely disregarded; and, morning or evening, the members dress as they like. Top-boots are out of fashion; but we have seen members present in long black hunting boots, whilst shooting-frocks are not at all uncommon. Indeed, for one Session, the present Foreign Secretary appeared regularly in a coat very much like a game-keeper's. The late Speaker, however, was rather sensitive upon this subject of costume, and more than once when he saw a member in a dress more than usually uncommon, not to say ungentlemanly, sent for him to his room, and privately asked him to discontinue it. But what he would have said to the wideawake hat that made its appearance in the House last week I cannot imagine. Mr. Hubbard, the member for Buckingham, and a director of the Bank of England, it was that inaugurated the startling innovation. We have seen white hats, and brown hats, and straw hats; but a tile like that of Mr. Hubbard we never saw before.

SIR JOHN OWEN AND THE OLD MEMBERS.

By the death of Sir John Owen, the member for the Pembroke district of boroughs, we have lost one of the oldest members of the

House. Sir John came into Parliament in 1812, nearly forty-nine years ago, when the Earl of Liverpool, Lord Eldon, Lord Castlereagh, &c., held the Government of England. It is a long time, but we have in the House even older members than Sir John. For example, Sir Charles Burrell, the father of the House, was first elected for Shoreham in 1806. When he entered the House Pitt and Fox had recently died, and the Ministry, denominated "all the talents," had just been dissolved. The age of the hon. Baronet is eighty-seven, and he has been a member fifty-five years continuously for one place. Sir Charles is still in good health; but he is getting infirm, and is seldom now seen in his place. The next is Lord Palmerston, who was first elected in 1807, fifty-four years ago. And next to him comes Lord John Russell, whose Parliamentary career began in 1813. Sir John Owen was a notable man in South Wales. He was Lord Lieutenant for Pembrokeshire, and Governor of Milford Haven. In 1800 he was called to the Bar. He was then named Lord; but, Sir Hugh Owen having left him large estates, he took the name of Owen, and renounced the Bar. Sir John was a silent member, and, though he had been in Parliament nearly half a century, so quiet and unobtrusive was he that it is probable that he was personally unknown to three-fourths of the members.

DULNESS.

A solemn dulness prevails at present in the House. With the exception of that little spurt of life on the first night, when Mr. White, of Brighton, set the division-bells ringing, we have had nothing like excitement. Not half the members are up, and will not be, perhaps, for ten days or a fortnight to come; and those who are wander about listless and indifferent for a time, and then most of them slink away home for more congenial scenes. When the Attorney-General was unfolding, in his placid, sniping way, his scheme of bankruptcy reform, on Monday night, there were at first about eighty members present; but before he had finished the number had dwindled down to fifty. Afterwards, when Mr. Cardwell elucidated the subject of registration of births, &c., in Ireland, he had not forty members to listen to him; and, as the Irishmen left—as Irish members generally do when Irish business is over—Lord Clarence Paget had to explain his dockyard bills to six members on the Conservative side and about twice that number on the opposite benches. And outside it is the same. The lobby is not yet crowded with strangers. There are no whips keeping watch and ward at the door; no running hither and thither for pairs; no obsequious deputations waiting upon equally obsequious members. In the refreshment-rooms the tables are set, the cloths are laid. The waiters stand with napkins on their arms, but few come to eat or to drink. Below, the Tabac Collegium, or tobacco parliament, has not yet begun its session. The smoking-room is lighted, and the ministering spirits stand at the door, but as yet no one comes to burn incense. There has not, indeed, yet been sufficient tobacco burnt there to conquer the ancient smell of last year's cigars. And in the tea-room I doubt much whether the damsels in waiting have at present made a single cup of their tea, for the old fogies who patronise the teakettle are generally the last to make their appearance; and, moreover, we have not had a single late night. Members go to dinner at home, and do not return, and therefore tea at present, is not required. In the library everything is in the trimmest order: the books are dusted so as not to soil the most delicate fingers; the splendid chandeliers repolished; the silver inkstands and paper-stands upon the well-furnished writing-tables dazzle you as you look upon them. Glorious fires blaze in the brass-mounted mediæval grates. Luxurious easy-chairs covered with green morocco stand invitingly for students. Heavy green velvet curtains, trimmed with gold lace, at once relieve the eye and keep out the draught. The librarian-in-chief and his subalterns are present assiduously to minister to the wants of all who may come either to wile away a weary hour or to hunt up materials for harangues. For be it known this splendid library is the manufactory, or perhaps we might rather say the armoury or arsenal, of the House. Here it is that members make their speeches; and here it is that our Parliamentary belligerents arm themselves for the field. Here they rake up their statistics; here they dig into Hansard; here they search for precedents; and, in short, every bolt that is shot, every dart that is hurled, is forged or pointed here. It is a splendid suite of rooms; by far the most magnificent and convenient department of the House. And it is well furnished, too—for, in addition to the Parliamentary special, there is a fine selection of other literature, such as history in all languages, general, topical, secular, and historical. In short, a selection from all branches of literature except the novel branch, which is not patronised here. But at present even the library is deserted.

A GOOD TIME COMING.

But wait awhile. The House is generally dull for a few weeks after the opening, though we do not remember that we ever saw it so dull as it is now. But wait awhile. We shall soon have a change. Shooting is done, fox-hunting will soon be over; and if it were not so the bruit of battle has gone forth, and, willing or unwilling, the sportsman must leave his sports and speedily hurry up to the House. Locke King, for instance, has given notice of a bill to lower the franchise in counties to ten pounds; Mr. Edward Baines is about to attempt to reduce the franchise in boroughs; Sir John Trelawny has already tabled a bill for the abolition of church rates, while Mr. Hubbard thinks he can trump it by another *not* to abolish them; and Mr. Dodson is going in, whether the Chancellor of the Exchequer like it or no, for the repeal of the hop duty; and, besides all this, the committee on private bills will soon be struck; and, as there is, notwithstanding the inability of a large number of bill promoters to post the tin, a respectable remnant of over 300, all hands will be required. And so, in a week or two, the House will be full of members, and the lobby of visitants; readers will swarm in the library; the tobacco parliament will be in full session; plates, forks, and glasses will rattle and ring in the restaurant; and quiet old fogies will sip their sodehong in the tea-room. And then, dear readers, you may expect li, and us to be lively; but, *ad interim*, as we cannot paint without models nor manufacture without material, you must excuse us if we are dull.

AN INCIDENT OF THE LOBBY.

Meanwhile, an incident of the lobby may amuse our readers. The time was about seven, the duller hour of the evening. Suddenly a stranger, dressed in velvet coat and porkpie hat, enters the lobby, and, with all the freedom and nonchalance of a member, walks straight to the door, and into the inner lobby, glancing like lightning before the doorkeeper. Strangers thought the gent was a member; but not so our janitor. He at a glance saw that it was an intruder, rushed after him, and brought him out. This, one would have thought, would have been enough, and that the gent would have congratulated himself that he had been so easily let off; but the gent had dined and wine, and was valiant, and, turning round fiercely, he rushed at the door again, whereupon the doorkeeper gripped him by the collar, pitched him forward, and sent him rolling upon the floor. Very indignant was the gent at this rough handling, and would have been abusive but at that moment a policeman politely offered his attentions, and, seizing him by the neck as he rose, courteously handed him to another outside, who with equal politeness escorted him to Palace-yard, advising him, no doubt, to be off at once, lest a worse fate should befall him—a prison for the night and heavy fees to pay in the morning.

GRAND COVENTRY RIBBON BALL AT BATH.—One of the most distinguished entertainments known in Bath for some years came off on Monday night, when a "ribbon ball," in aid of the distressed weavers of Coventry, was held at the Assembly Rooms. The company numbered upwards of 700. The ladies all wore dresses trimmed with Coventry ribbons, which were obtained direct from Coventry by the committee, the gentlemen also wore rosettes and sashes of the same material.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS.

Lord GRANVILLE moved the appointment of a Select Committee on Public Business. It had been, he said, proposed to have a joint Committee of the two Houses of Parliament, but the Government had thought it better to have a Committee of each House, with power of communicating with each other.

Lord DREBY having assented cordially to the motion, a desultory conversation arose upon the subject, the motion being finally agreed to without a division.

THE CHINA WAR.

Lord HERBERT of Lea gave notice that on Thursday next he should move a vote of thanks to the Army in China.

THE VOTING IN ITALY.

After a few words from Lord NORMANBY, denying that the voting in North Italy had been universal, their Lordships adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE DRUSES.

Sir J. FERGUSSON brought forward the subject of the trial of the Druse chiefs in Syria who had voluntarily surrendered, and inquired whether the Government had received any information respecting the tribunal before which they had been tried; whether the evidence taken was in possession of the Government; whether it was true that they had been condemned to death; and, if they had, whether the Government intended to make any representation to the Porte on the subject? He contended that the trial had been a gross perversion of justice.

Lord J. RUSSELL stated, in reply, that the tribunal was an extraordinary one, appointed by Fuad Pacha, and that circumstances had come to the knowledge of the Government which induced them to think that the trial had not been a fair one. As soon as the result had been communicated to the Commissioners they required the evidence to be laid before them, and, if insufficient, it would be in their power to remonstrate with Fuad Pacha. The Government could not make any representation to the Porte till they knew the opinion of the Commissioners.

NAVAL AFFAIRS.

In answer to Sir F. SMITH, Mr. BASS, Sir J. Elphinstone, and Sir J. Pakington, Lord C. PAGET said the system of competition in the appointment of marine cadets, though not unlimited, worked very well and gave great satisfaction. As to naval cadets, it would be very difficult to introduce open competition among them. With regard to dockyard management, he indicated certain changes that were contemplated pending the presentation of the report of the Commission; meanwhile, the new Surveyor of the Navy was an officer highly competent to the discharge of his important duties. He reserved fuller details upon these subjects till the Navy Estimates were before the House.

THE MYSORE GRANT.

Mr. VANSITTART inquired whether it was true that the grant to the Mysore family had been made by the Secretary of State for India against the protest of the Indian Government, the decision of the late Governor-General of India in Council, and the representations of the late Mr. Wilson and Lord Canning?

Sir C. WOOD replied that when Tippoo was killed, and it was determined not to restore his family, a treaty was made with the Nizam, our ally, for the division of his territory, the English, on their part, contracting to pay the family of the Sultan £70,000 a year. That sum was not, however, allotted to them. In 1806 the Vellore mutiny arose, in which some of the Mysore family were implicated, and it was thought that, according to the stipulations which empowered the grant, it had become forfeited; but Lord Minto, the Governor-General, was of opinion that they were still entitled to a liberal maintenance. The proceeds of the territory set apart for this purpose were always kept separate from the general revenue of India, and an accumulation of nearly £600,000 had taken place. In 1852 Goolab Mohammed, the only son of Tippoo, asked for the payment of the £70,000 a year and of the accumulations. This was refused, and Lord Dalhousie proposed that the payments should cease after the fourth generation of the family had expired. All this, however, did not seem to him (Sir C. Wood) to do away with the right of the family to a proper maintenance from the revenues of dominions of which they had been deprived. In 1858 another attempt was made by Goolab Mohammed to obtain his demand, and the result was that a stock had been created with the sum of £520,000 as a permanent provision for the family, producing £17,000 a year.

THE SPIRIT DUTIES.

In reply to a question by Mr. CRAWFORD, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said there was no intention on the part of the Government to propose any reduction of the duties on spirits imposed last Session.

THE CANADIAN EXTRADITION CASE.

In answer to Mr. H. B. SHERIDAN, Lord PALMERSTON said the Duke of Newcastle had written to the Governor-General of Canada, desiring him not to give up Anderson without directions from the home Government, and he would not be given up until the question pending was settled. He could not say whether the Canadian authorities would obey the writ of *habeas corpus* sent from this country; but, in the case of his being brought to England, he would not be taken through the United States. The terms of the treaty were clear that the United States must establish that Anderson had committed what was held to be murder by the English law by a court of competent jurisdiction. If Anderson had not committed murder he could not be claimed under the treaty.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE POOR LAW.

Mr. VILLIERS moved for a Select Committee to inquire into the administration of the relief of the poor and the system now pursued under the Poor-law Amendment Act.

Mr. E. JAMES thought inquiry necessary, as there was a universal dissatisfaction with the present system.

Lord R. CECIL imputed blame to the parochial authorities of the metropolis, and read a variety of statements in support of his charge. He hoped the Poor-law Board would have greater power of interfering summarily with the management of workhouses.

After some further discussion, in which it was suggested that the motion should be made to include an inquiry into the "operation" as well as the "administration" of the poor law, which was acceded to, it was agreed to.

GLOUCESTER AND WAKEFIELD ELECTIONS.

On the motion of Sir G. C. LEWIS, it was ordered that no motion should be made for a new writ for the boroughs of Gloucester and Wakefield without seven days' notice.

TELEGRAPH COMMUNICATION.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER moved a resolution the object of which was to enable the Government to guarantee a minimum dividend of 4½ per cent to the Red Sea and India Telegraph Company and a certain amount of capital in pursuance of a contract entered into which had not been carried out.

The resolution was agreed to.

POST-OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER also moved a resolution to provide for the payment out of the Consolidated Fund of any deficiency which might arise from the establishment of post-office savings banks, if such banks should be established. He explained that a measure was projected which was intended to facilitate the deposit of small savings by making the money-order offices of the Post Office available for that purpose.

The resolution was agreed to, after a general expression of approval of the plan.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

LAW REFORM.

The Lord CHANCELLOR laid on the table a bill for clearing the statute-book of a mass of useless matter as a preliminary step in the consolidation of the statute law. The bill was read a first time.

THE BONN TRIALS.

In answer to the Earl of Shaftesbury, Lord WODEHOUSE stated that the correspondence relating to the recent trials of Englishmen at Bonn would be produced in due time.

THE PROTESTANT ALLIANCE.

The Marquis of NORMANBY complained that the Protestant Alliance, at a deputation to Lord J. Russell, had used expressions, in speaking of the Roman Catholics of Spain, equivalent to stating that they were not Christians.

Lord WODEHOUSE and the Earl of SHAFTESBURY explained that the expression was not meant in the sense suggested by the noble Marquis.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

INDIAN FINANCE.

On the bringing up of the report of the Committee of Supply, Mr. BAILLIE asked an explanation from the Secretary of State for India on the subject of Indian finance, with reference to a statement he had made on the previous Wednesday, which appeared to him (Mr. Baillie) to be inconsistent with the views of the Governor-General of India, but which had produced a very great effect in the City.

Sir C. WOOD said in a statement he had made on a former occasion, which he reiterated, was entirely borne out by the despatches from India, which

properly understood. He entered into some further explanations, in the course of which he repeated that the deficit of revenue, amounting this year to £5,500,000, would disappear next year, when there would be an equilibrium between revenue and expenditure.

Some remarks were made by Mr. Crawford, Sir H. Willoughby, and Col. Sykes, and the report was agreed to.

THE BANKRUPTCY BILL.

The reports of other Committees having been brought up and agreed to, The Attorney-General moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend the law relating to bankruptcy and insolvency, expressing a hope that he had succeeded in so framing the measure as to entitle it to greater favour than his former bill had experienced. He began by alluding to the confusion which now existed in bankruptcy between the judicial and administrative functions of the law, and one object of the last bill, as of the present, was to separate these two functions. Another feature of the late as well as the present measure was to restore to the creditors in bankruptcy the power of settling their own affairs. Another evil which the late bill was intended to meet was the vast expense of proceedings in bankruptcy, the various sources of which he pointed out: to reduce this expense was likewise an object of the present bill. He enumerated other objects contemplated by the late bill which were embodied in the present, and then proceeded to explain the alterations he had introduced into the present bill. He proposed to adhere to the plan of appointing a Chief Judge, but to continue the Commissioners of Bankruptcy; to abolish the Commissioners of the Insolvent Debtors' Court; and to permit a majority of the creditors to remove the case out of the Bankruptcy Court into the County Courts. He next explained the course of proceeding proposed by the bill. One great object was to enable a bankrupt's estate to be administered and worked out, without the necessity of going into bankruptcy at all, by a very simple mode of proceeding. He described the powers and functions with which he proposed to clothe the creditors and the official assignees respectively, and the nature of the discharge to be given to the debtor. He proposed to abolish the distinctions of the certificates given to bankrupts, and to set forth cases of misconduct which would warrant the Judge, of his own motion, in either refusing the certificate or suspending the order of discharge, or committing the bankrupt to prison for a term not exceeding twelve months (unless the bankrupt desired to be tried by a jury), without any appeal from the sentence of the Chief Judge. These forms of procedure applied to trader debtors. In the case of non-traders he urged at some length the impolicy of the existing law in requiring a term of imprisonment before an insolvent could obtain relief from the Court—a provision which was no advantage to the creditor or the community, while it was the greatest injustice to the non-trader. It was, therefore, a boon to all parties to place the law of insolvency on the same footing as the law of bankruptcy. The difficulty was to specify the overt acts that would constitute insolvency, and he stated what he considered would be criteria of insolvency sufficient to cast upon a debtor the obligation of giving up his property to his creditors, who should not, in that case, be entitled to more than an equal distribution of the property possessed by the debtor at the time, and they should not be allowed to retain the power of pursuing him through life. He explained various other details of the bill, and, in conclusion, expressed a confident expectation that the portion of it which provided for private arrangements by means of deeds of composition would be found most beneficial, ensuring economy and expedition.

After a brief discussion, in which approval of the bill was generally expressed, it was read a first time.

REGISTRATION IN IRELAND.

Mr. CARDWELL moved for and obtained leave to bring in a bill for the registration of births, deaths, and marriages; also a bill for the better regulation of markets and fairs in Ireland.

ARMENIANS AND BARRACKS.

Lord C. PAGET obtained leave to bring in a bill to enable the Admiralty to acquire property for the dockyard at Chatham; also a bill to acquire land for the enlargement of the marine barracks at Stonehouse.

The Select Committee on the business of the House was appointed.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

FRAUDULENT TRADE MARKS.

The Lord Chancellor laid on the table a bill to protect manufacturers against forged trade marks, and briefly explained that the object of the measure was to make the forging of these marks, or the sale of articles bearing false marks, a misdemeanour, punishable by fine and imprisonment.—The bill was read a first time.

FICTITIOUS SAVINGS-BANKS.

Lord MONTAGUE moved the second reading of the Fictitious Savings-banks Bill, the object of which is to put a stop to a system which had sprung up of establishing fictitious and almost fraudulent savings-banks, in which there was no obligation to invest the deposits, but into which people paid their money believing them to be legitimate institutions. In Glasgow alone there were sixteen of these banks.—The bill was read a second time.

SOCIETY IN IRELAND.

The Earl of LEITRIM presented a petition from the farmers and inhabitants of the southern part of the county of Leitrim, praying that they might be allowed to enjoy the protection of the law to life and property. He stated, at great length, that an organised system of terror and murder for political purposes existed in different parts of Ireland. He urged that the present system of government in Ireland was feeble and partial, the punishment for crime being the exception rather than the rule. The consequence was that threatening notices were frequent; and he mentioned several cases in which men's lives were not worth six months' purchase.

The Earl of GRANARD defended himself from some charges made against him by the previous speaker for conduct as Lord Lieutenant of the county of Leitrim; and after a few words from Earl GRANVILLE, deprecating such statements as those made by Lord Leitrim, the subject dropped.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

OUR INTERESTS IN MEXICO.

In answer to Mr. A. Mills and Mr. Bristow, Lord J. RUSSELL said that it was difficult to give directions for the protection of British interests in Mexico, owing to the course pursued by the two parties which were in opposition there, who seemed to think the best mode of obtaining money to carry on the contest in which they were engaged was by their both robbing foreigners. In such cases as were ascertained orders had been given to demand restoration and compensation. There was every prospect of the cessation of the civil war and the return of order. With regard to the dispute concerning the respective rights of Great Britain and America in the Straits of St. Juan de Fuca it had not yet been adjusted. A proposition had been sent from this country, to which no answer had yet been received.

SPECULATIVE PROPOSITIONS.

The SPEAKER, referring to the following question, of which notice had been given by Sir J. Trelawny, "whether the Home Secretary had been informed of a recent decision in the county court of Rochdale, a plaintiff having been nonsuited on account of the inability of the witness to affirm her belief in 'certain speculative propositions,' and whether—on the assumption that the Judge ruled properly—the Government will deem it expedient to amend the law applicable to similar cases," said that the words used originally were "a belief in a state of future rewards and punishments," and he had objected to the alteration, and required the latter words to be restored.

The question having been put by Sir J. Trelawny, Sir G. C. LEWIS said he had communicated with the county court Judge, and he found it was an action brought by a daughter against her mother, she being the only witness. On her being asked if she believed in a God and a future state of reward and punishment, and having said she did not, she was nonsuited. The ruling was in accordance with law, and it was not intended to bring in a bill to alter the law.

Sir J. TRELAWNY stated his dissatisfaction with the answer given, which affirmed a denial of justice.

Mr. CONINGHAM also urged that it was a monstrous proposition to say that justice was to be denied on the ground of religious belief.

REFORM—VOTERS' EXPENSES.

Mr. COLLIER moved for leave to bring in a bill to prohibit the payment of the expenses of conveying voters to the poll in boroughs, which he described as a small measure of reform, not calculated to provoke much opposition.

After a few remarks from Mr. Pendergast, Sir G. C. LEWIS said it was his intention shortly to ask leave to bring in a bill on the subject of corrupt practices at elections, and one part of the measure would deal with this matter. At the same time, if the House desired to have this fragmentary measure before it, he should not object to the introduction of the bill.

Mr. Griffith, Mr. Scully, and Mr. Stewart made a few remarks.

Mr. E. JAMES objected to the introduction of a number of small reform bills, thinking that the responsibility of that question rested with the Government.

Mr. MACKINNON assured the House that his opposition to the Reform Bill was made without communication with Lord Palmerston. The experience he had gained in the Committee on the subject of councils of conciliation between masters and workmen showed him that the middle class were averse to an extension of the franchise, and the lower classes indifferent to it.

Leave was given to bring in the bill.

Sir J. TRELAWNY obtained leave to bring in a bill to establish county financial boards for the assessment of county rates, and for the administration of county expenditure in England and Wales.

OFFICIAL MEMBERS.

Mr. WHITE moved for a return of every member of that House holding any civil, military, naval, diplomatic, or other place, office, or pension to which he has been nominated or appointed by the Crown, Government, Ministers, or chiefs of departments; stating the date of his nomination or appointment and the emoluments he receives, and whether the same be temporary, permanent, or progressive.

It was opposed by Sir G. C. LEWIS, and supported by Lord R. Cecil, Mr. Hadfield, Mr. Coningham, and Mr. Bass.

On a division the motion was lost by 112 to 53.

CHURCH RATES.

Mr. HUBBARD obtained leave to bring in a bill for the amendment of the law regarding church rates, which he stated to be similar to the one he introduced last year, the main principle of which was that those who dissented from the Church of England by a simple declaration should be exempted from the payment of church rates.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

AN EXPLANATION FOR THE MARINES.

Lord C. PAGET made a statement in explanation of some observations which he had made on a previous evening in reference to the Royal Marines, and which, he said, had been misunderstood by the officers of the noble service in question. He assured the House that nothing could be further from his intention than to use any expression which could be deprecatory of a branch of the service which he regarded as the mainstay of the Navy.

It being Ash Wednesday, the House adjourned after about an hour's sitting.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Lord Chancellor took his seat on the woolsack at five o'clock.

THE CASE OF MR. TURNBULL.

The Marquis of NORMANBY, who had given notice of his intention to put a question to the Government with reference to the removal of Mr. Turnbull from the calendarship of the State papers, withdrew his motion. Circumstances had come to his knowledge which induced him to postpone it for some days.

THE COURT OF ADMIRALTY.

The Lord Chancellor introduced a bill in reference to the Court of Admiralty.

THE TROOPS IN CHINA.

Lord HERBERT of LEA, in moving a vote of thanks to her Majesty's forces in China, esteemed it fortunate that in addressing their Lordships for the first time he had to make a motion which would meet with no disapprobation from any side of the House. It was not necessary for him to go back to the beginning and describe the causes which led to the war. It would be enough to say that, immediately on the receipt of the intelligence of what he was obliged to call the disaster of the Peking, troops were sent out by the Government to stop as soon as possible the spread of that calamity. At this point he wished to pay a tribute to the memory of an officer who, though called upon to fill a higher post in India, left with regret a duty he would not doubt have fulfilled admirably—he alluded to Colonel Hathorn. The force sailed; and it would be interesting to their Lordships to hear a portion of a private letter by Sir Hope Grant describing the troops under his command. (The noble Lord read the extract, which spoke in high terms of the troops.) On the 1st of August the force landed at Peking. The country was in a condition that rendered military operations extremely difficult; but, nevertheless, the army advanced, and in a short time an engagement took place with a strong force of Tartar cavalry, in which our troops were brilliantly successful. This he considered of great importance, as the Chinese relied greatly on the power of their Tartar horse; and the moral effect produced by their defeat early in the campaign was of much value. It then became necessary to capture the Taku Forts, which offered a serious obstacle to the advance of the army. These forts were of great strength, and surrounded by two wet ditches, rendering them almost impassable. After describing the difficulty which our troops overcame in the capture of these forts, the noble Lord said that he had considered it necessary to dwell a short time on this, since, now that Peking had been captured, and we had obtained a series of invaluable successes, people were apt to forget the difficulties which the troops had triumphed over in the beginning of the war. Lord Herbert passed over the intermediate operations until the army had arrived at Tien-Tsin. Referring to the action which took place before that town, he said that it was supposed by some persons that the Chinese were at that time desirous of peace, and that we had simply forced them to hostilities by our aggressive conduct. He believed that nothing could be more contrary to the fact. Not only in Sir Hope Grant's public despatches, but in private letters which he (Lord Herbert) had seen, was there conclusive evidence to the contrary. So careful was Sir Hope Grant to prevent the Chinese from misunderstanding him that he allowed himself to be surrounded by the Tartar horse before he gave orders for the attack. After referring to the gallant conduct of the 1st Dragoon Guards on this occasion, Lord Herbert drew the attention of the House to the naval forces. In letters from Sir Hope Grant he had seen him refer to Admiral Seymour as the very best colleague he could possibly have had. Referring to the Armstrong guns, Lord Herbert spoke with great satisfaction of their performance. He had considered it advisable to send out a smooth-bore gun together with every Armstrong gun with the expedition, so that in no case might our batteries be weakened by unlooked-for accidents. He was happy to say, however, that the Armstrong gun had been completely successful; and we might, he believed, congratulate their Lordships on possessing, as far as they knew, the best gun in the world. He now turned to the fate of the British prisoners. Mr. Parkes, Mr. Loch, Mr. De Norman, Lieutenant Anderson, Captain Brabazon, and Mr. Bowby were taken prisoners, and some of them had been barbarously killed. Their death, he was not wrong in saying, had caused the deepest sensation throughout the country. Even if they had simply died on the open field their death would have been sincerely deplored, but as it was they had been treated with the utmost cruelty—their bonds even being wetted that they might rot deeper into the flesh. Lord Herbert referred in detail to each of the prisoners who had been killed, and, after referring to accusations that the war had been conducted expensively, and refuting it by reference to letters of Sir Hope Grant, he concluded, amidst much cheering, by reading the vote of thanks.

The Earl of DERRY seconded the resolutions, which, after a few observations from the Duke of Cambridge and Lord Clyde, were agreed to *nem. con.*

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Speaker took the chair at four o'clock.

THE ADMIRALTY.

Sir J. PAKINGTON gave notice that on an early day he would move for a Select Committee to inquire into the constitution of the Board of Admiralty, and to inquire in what manner the administration of that department might be rendered more effective for the public service.

DRAINAGE.

In reply to Sir J. Shelley, Sir G. LEWIS said it was the intention of the Government to introduce measures for further facilitating the drainage of lands by the improvement of outfalls and arterial channels.

THE MYSORE PRINCES.

Mr. BUXTON asked the Secretary of State for India what amount of pensions has actually been paid over to the Mysore Princes in each of the last seven years?

Sir G. LEWIS said the average had been £47,524.

OPERATIONS IN CHINA.

Viscount PALMERSTON rose to propose the thanks of Parliament to the Army and Navy engaged in the recent operations in China. He eulogised the skill, gallantry, and integrity with which the operations in that country were conducted, the success having been complete, without a single mistake having been made throughout the whole of the transactions. The noble Lord proceeded to explain the origin of the war, and the way in which it arose out of an unwillingness on the part of the Chinese authorities to ratify the treaty into which they had entered. With regard to the destruction of the Emperor's Summer Palace, he would not pain the House by dwelling on the inhuman cruelties inflicted upon the persons who were taken to that place by the Chinese, because this was only part of a much larger strategy which they had contemplated. It was necessary, to mark our detestation of such conduct, that a signal punishment should be inflicted upon them. An hon. friend of his had put a notice on the paper to ask whether the French commander acquiesced in the destruction of the Emperor's Palace. Without hesitation he said that the French commander did not acquiesce in the burning of the Palace because the French had not suffered so much as the English. The English commander did it upon his own responsibility, and her Majesty's Government fully concurred in the course of policy he had adopted. After a few eulogiums upon the French and English armies, the noble Lord proposed the vote of thanks to the officers engaged in the operations of China, mentioning the principal of them by name.

Mr. DISRAELI seconded the motion.

The resolutions, after a brief discussion, were agreed to.

BANKRUPTCY AND INSOLVENCY BILL.

This bill was read a second time. The Bank of England Payments and the Red Sea and India Telegraph Bills were also read a second time.

CONSOLIDATION OF THE CRIMINAL LAW.

The Solicitor-General obtained leave to bring in a series of bills for the consolidation of the criminal law.

THE FOUR VACANT SEATS FOR DISTRIBUTION.

Sir G. C. LEWIS obtained leave, after some discussion, to introduce a bill to dispose of the four vacant seats arising from the disfranchisement of St. Albans and Sudbury. It was proposed to give one of these seats to each of the following places, viz.—the West Riding of Yorkshire, South Lancashire, the united districts of Chelsea and Kensington, and the town of Birkenhead.

THE BISHOP OF EXETER ON CHURCH RATES.

The Bishop of Exeter has been moved for a "declaration" on the controversy between orthodox Churchmen and ecclesiastical seceders. His Lordship has responded to the appeal in a letter in which he expresses an opinion that the question of church rates must not be regarded from the point of view which might have been taken in past generations. He admits that we must look at the "problem actually presented to us," or, in other words, that we must consider what is expedient or practicable, as well as what, in the opinion of many, would be lawful and right. He thinks that "common prudence and the manifest interest of peace" demand the substitution of temporal for ecclesiastical courts on occasions of church-rate litigation. He allows that weight should be attached to the conscientious objections of those who, in refusing to pay church rates, are refusing to support a system of doctrine and worship to which they are opposed; and, though he does not quite acknowledge that such objections are reasonable, he at least confesses that they ought to be rendered inapplicable. The argument may be unsound in itself, but no man should be able to allege it. Churchmen should no longer contend for all that is desirable, nor even for all that may be reasonable. They must make concessions, and they can do so with very little damage to their cause.

What the Bishop suggests is to the following effect:—He considers that church rates should be so far retained as to furnish, in some shape or other, the necessary funds for maintaining churches and churchyards in a proper and seemly condition, but for all beyond this he would rely on voluntary contributions. He limits his demand exclusively to the requirements of the fabric and the adjacent ground. God's house and God's acre should be kept up, but nothing more; all the rest should be provided by the offerings of the congregation. The charges for the various accessories of decorous worship should be defrayed by the actual worshippers, and not thrown upon those "who cannot enjoy the use" of the things supplied. In short, the services of the Church are to be conducted at the cost of church-goers exclusively, while the "edifices and churchyards" are alone to be maintained by public and compulsory taxation.

CONFERENCE OF CHURCH-RATE ABOLITIONISTS.

A VERY numerous conference, convened at the instance of the representatives of almost all the dissenting denominations, was held at the Freemasons' Hall, on Tuesday, for the purpose of taking steps to ensure the passage of the Church-rate Abolition Bill by decisive majorities. Several hundreds were present, and all the principal towns and many of the rural parishes were represented. Among those who were present were Mr. Baines, M.P.; Lord Henley, M.P.; Mr. Scholefield, M.P.; Sir C. Douglas, M.P.; Sir J. Shelley, M.P.; Mr. T. Hankey, M.P.; Mr. Whalley, M.P.; Mr. Pilkington, M.P.; Mr. Dunlop, M.P.; Mr. Clifford, M.P.; Colonel Tynte, M.P.; Mr. Bristow, M.P.; Mr. Stansfield, M.P.; Mr. Hardcastle, M.P.; Mr. Kinglake, M.P.; Rev. T. Binney, Rev. Dr. Steane, Rev. W. Brock, J. Heywood, Esq.; Rev. R. B. Aspland, Mr. Morley, Mr. J. Pease, and Mr. C. Curling.

After a succession of short speeches it was resolved to support Sir John Trelawny's bill by direct and persevering action upon Parliament, to take no heed of any threat of resistance or offer of compromise, and to raise £3000 for carrying on the agitation. Half that amount was subscribed in a few minutes.

THE BISHOP OF DURHAM AND "ESSAYS AND REVIEWS."—The Bishop of Durham, in reply to an address from his clergy on the work "Essays and Reviews," declares his "most deliberate conviction, formed after the careful reading of the 'Essays,' that a more heterodox volume could scarcely have been produced. The cautious style of the writers may possibly render it difficult to frame out of this work a case for direct legal investigation; but no candid reader can be blind to the fact that inferentially the Atonement is denied, miracles are explained away, prophecy is cast aside, inspiration (in the only real meaning of the term) is rejected."

POST-OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.—A bill is to be introduced to allow the money-order post-offices to receive deposits, and to pay 2½ per cent interest thereon. As there are nearly 3000 of these offices distributed throughout the country, the idea is that the machinery thus in existence may be utilised to promote the objects for which savings-banks were originally founded.

MR. LEATHAM.—In the Bill Court on Tuesday the case of Mr. Leatham—returned for Wakefield at the last election, unseated for corrupt practices, charged by indictment with bribery, and found guilty at the York Assizes—was heard, and cause shown against the rule for a new trial, which had been granted in Michaelmas term last. The rule was refused.

THE NORTH ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.—The question of the North Atlantic Telegraph was under discussion at the last meeting of the Geographical Society. Sir Roderick Murchison gave the weight of his authority in favour of the practicability of the scheme. Captain Sherard Osborn called attention to the fact that any apprehension which might be entertained as to the effect of the aurora borealis and the intense cold upon the electric current had been set at rest by Captains Kellett and McIntock, who in a much more northerly latitude had established telegraphic communication between their two vessels.

ECCELESIASTICAL TRIALS.—The appeal of the Rev. Alfred Poole, formerly Curate of St. Barnabas, Knightsbridge, against the Bishop of London, was heard before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council on Monday. Every one knows the facts of this case—how the Bishop revoked Mr. Poole's license on account of his having encouraged women in the practice of confession, and having put improper questions to them. The case having been argued at some length, an adjournment took place. In the same court the Rev. Dunbar Isidore Heath, Vicar of Brading, in the Isle of Wight, appeared as appellant, the Bishop of Winchester being respondent. This suit was instituted in the Court of Arches in February, 1860, when Mr. Heath was charged with heresy in maintaining doctrines contrary to those of the Church of England. Judgment was now given to the effect that the appellant was entitled to have the specific charges against him set forth, showing which of the Thirty-nine Articles he had contravened, and that this must be done within a month.

CARDINAL WISEMAN'S NEW PASTORAL.—A pastoral from Cardinal Wiseman, dictated from his sick-room, was read on Sunday in the Roman Catholic chapel in Westminster. The faithful are exhorted to remember often, before God, "the spoliation of his sanctuaries, the banishment of his pious prelates, the imprisonment of his zealous priests, the cruel dispersion from the houses in which they had vowed to live for ever as His spouses," &c.; and they are urged to subscribe to the temporal necessities of the Pope. A collection is also to be made in support of the movement for obtaining greater facilities for the Roman Catholic inmates of workhouses. The Cardinal, in conclusion, requests "an occasional prayer for ourselves, that God's will be done in all things regarding us; only that, whether in sickness or in health—whether it be His holy will that we should continue still to languish in infirmity or to be restored once more to full vigour—we may devote ourselves exclusively to the promotion of His glory by the faithful administration of our ecclesiastical office."

MARRIAGE LAW IN FRANCE.—The Court of Cassation, presided over by M. Troplong, has decided that a woman who married a liberated convict without a knowledge of the fact of his conviction is entitled to a decree of nullity of marriage. The Supreme Court, overruling the judgment of the Imperial Court of Paris, holds that the mistake as to the person which the code lays down as a cause of nullity is not restricted to the "physical person," but comprehends a mistake as to an antecedent of a party which changes his "civil person" in such a serious degree as a conviction for felony. This case excited extraordinary interest.

THE FIRE AT BLENHEIM PALACE.

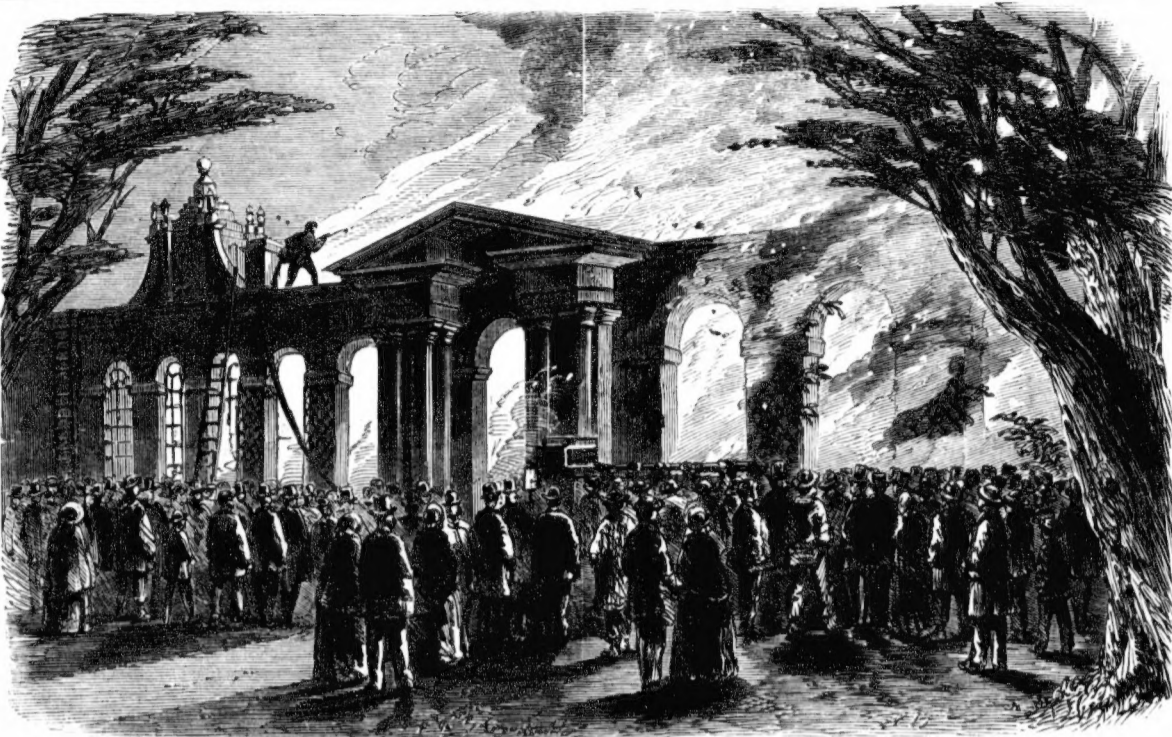
Our last Impression contained a report of the disastrous fire at Blenheim Palace, by which many valuable pictures were destroyed, and others imminently jeopardised. This week we print several Engravings illustrative of the scene during the conflagration.

Mr. George Scharf has written in the *Athenaeum* an interesting letter about the destroyed pictures. He says:—

"The destruction by fire of the large apartment known as the Titian Room, and formerly used for theatrical purposes, at Blenheim Palace, on Tuesday last, may render the following notes on the pictures that were consumed with it acceptable to many of your artistic readers. The regret caused by so disastrous a circumstance will in some degree be lessened by the recollection that the nine paintings representing the Loves of the Gods were never accepted by the best judges as works either of Titian or even as directly of his school. W. Y. Ottley was the first to ascribe them to Alessandro Veronese, called Padovanino, a subsequent imitator of Titian; and this opinion has been adopted by Dr. Waagen and other well-known connoisseurs. Passavant considered them, at best, the pro-

duction of a scholar of Titian, and in no case worthy of the reputation they had gained. They have now utterly perished, and their compositions only remain extant in a set of mezzotint engravings, the reverse way, by John Smith. These plates afford very faithful transcripts of the originals, and are well worthy of the engraver who devoted himself so particularly to the works of Sir Godfrey Kneller. He had, however, altered their relative proportions by removing the architectural figures at the side, and extending the landscape or draperies, as the case may be. The originals varied in width, but the plates of Smith are nearly uniform.

"There could be no doubt to an experienced eye that the paintings in question were produced at a period much later than Titian. Not only the execution, but the taste and style of the accessories, all tended to confirm it. These pictures in oil colour upon gilt leather, enriched in some parts also with silver, were presented before 1708 by Victor Amadeus, afterwards King of Sardinia, and then only Duke of Savoy, to John, Duke of Marlborough. They were given and received as the works of Titian, and as such John Smith and George Vertu engraved them. But as early



THE FIRE AT BLENHEIM PALACE—DESTRUCTION OF THE TITIAN GALLERY!—(SKETCHED FROM THE GARDENS.)



INTERIOR OF THE COURTYARD.

as 1766 the author of 'The English Connoisseur' and Horace Walpole questioned their genuineness. The strange pediments, the ridiculous winged females, without arms, at the sides, and the miserable taste of the small patterns stamped with bookbinder's tooling all over the gold and silver surfaces of the architecture and accessory portions of the pictures themselves, would never have been tolerated by any leading artists of Titian's period.

"It is, at the same time, very remarkable that these compositions bear a close resemblance to certain exceedingly rare and very far from decorous engravings by Caraglio, which were taken, according to the authority of Vasari, from designs by Perino del Vaga and Il Rosso.

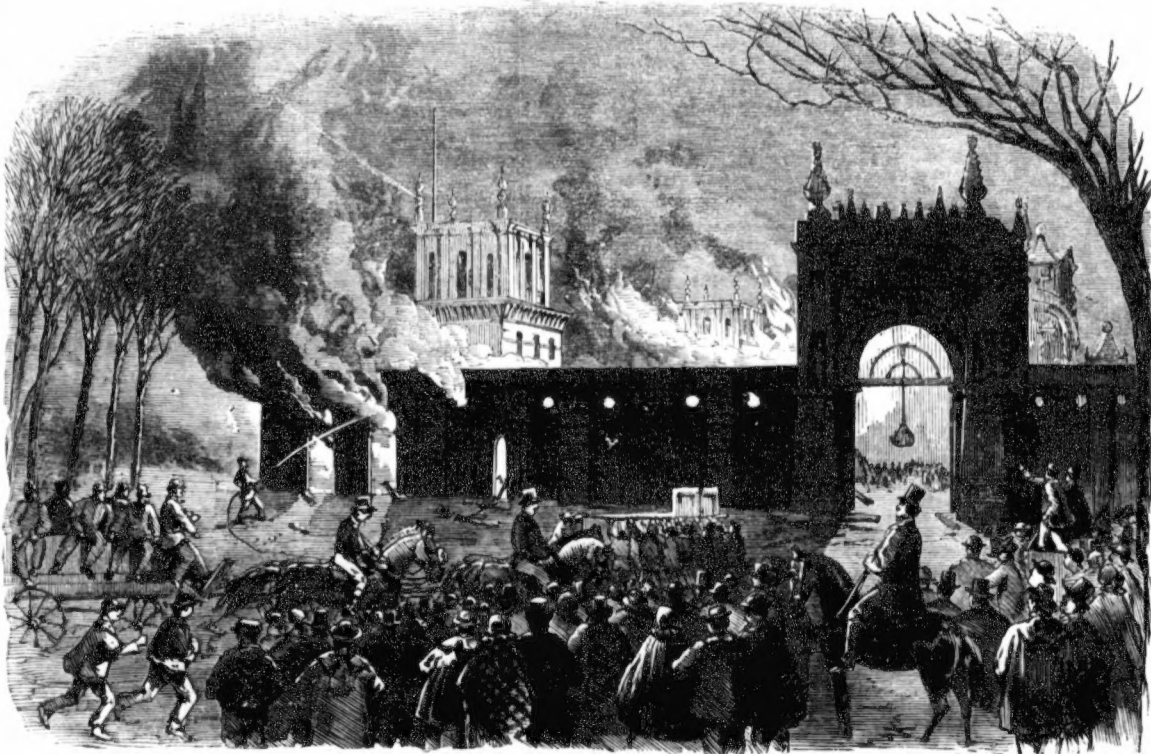
"The magnificent picture, by Rubens, of 'The Rape of Proserpine,' was unfortunately in the same apartment, and perished with the rest. This is, indeed, a sad loss. It was universally admitted to be one of his very finest works, and almost entirely painted by his own hand. The composition being of great length, more than thirteen feet, by nearly seven feet in height, was arranged according to the principles of antique sculpture; and there are many antique bas-reliefs of this subject; but the colouring was magnificent. It

is to be feared that no careful copy exists of this picture in colours. The composition only has been preserved in an etching by Soutman.

"It is a matter of congratulation that the destruction did not extend to the valuable collection of documents belonging to the family which have still to be put to their full historical use; and more fortunate again is it that the fire stopped short of the billiard-room, filled with original pictures by Teniers, from which the Archduke Leopold's Gallery was engraved—an apartment forming the angle of the main building, and which, if once ignited, would have rendered a total conflagration of that side of the palace inevitable."

RUS IN URBE.

In the recently-opened Exhibition of the British Institution, which is more than usually remarkable this year for the small number of good pictures it contains, a work by Mr. Barnes, entitled "Rus in Urbe"—Card-sharps, is deserving of notice. The picture, as will be seen from our Engraving of it on the next page, tells its own story well enough; and in the dramatic grouping of the personages, and the general intelligibility of the action represented, lie the chief merit of this performance.



THE FIRE AS SEEN FROM THE PARK.



"HITS IN LINDY."—(FROM A PICTURE BY E. G. BARNES, IN THE EXHIBITION OF THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.)

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1861.

THE SAVINGS OF THE POOR.

WHENEVER a period of distress occurs like that which lately filled our hearts with benevolence and our streets with beggars, we never fail to hear of the "improvidence of the working classes," their "reckless improvidence," their "hopeless improvidence," and so on; till at length it is almost believed that the working man is not a small capitalist only because he is such a great spendthrift. To us this appears unjust for the most part, and ungenerous altogether. Many workmen, no doubt, have large wages and small families; but some of them, by close economy, by daily resistance to temptation do save money in provision for sickness and for times when work is "slack." Of these men nothing is heard by the benevolent, and therefore no account is taken of them by moralists. Others of the same class, it must be admitted, spend all they earn as fast as it comes into the domestic exchequer. They eat meat six times a week; the children are well shod; the wife has no fewer than two Sunday gowns; the husband regales himself with several half pints of beer a day; his Saturday evenings are spent in political discussion at the "Magpie and Stamp"; and once a year he takes his whole family for "eight hours by the seaside." Considering how precarious his income is, no doubt there is much improvidence in all this; but, considering also that human nature is human nature, and how hard it must be to live from day to day a life of toil and bread and water, unseduced by the small comforts and luxuries which would sweeten it, we think he is not to be blamed very severely. But large wages and small families are by no means the rule amongst the working classes, but rather the exception. Tens of thousands of labourers and mechanics do not earn more than three or four shillings a day; and when that sum (which is not earned every day) has to cover the expense of clothing, lodging, and feeding six people, how much is to be expected of their providence for rainy days? All days are rainy for them; and they form precisely the class of workpeople which comes before the benevolence and the criticism of the public in times of trade depression.

While, however, we are anxious to defend the poor from too sweeping and unqualified a charge of improvidence, we admit that thrifty habits are not common with those who have the chance to thrive, and that they listen to the temptations of a little prosperity far more often than to the warnings of great distress. And as with thrift comes content, and as a contented, thrifty population is the first and best security of the State in which it lives, no Government can be wise which neglects to foster habits of saving amongst the people. When, in 1817, our Government promoted the savings bank system, it was shown how much could be done in this way. Since that time the system has progressed, year by year, so enormously that the amount of deposits has reached forty millions. But it is still far from perfect. There are at the present moment fifteen counties, and more than a hundred towns of 1000 inhabitants and upwards, without a savings bank at all; and where they do exist the depositors are under a very erroneous impression as to the security of their money. It is supposed to be guaranteed by the Government; but the fact is, the State is only responsible for deposits after they have passed from the coffers of the bank trustees to the Treasury, while the trustees themselves have no legal responsibility whatever! Lord Monteagle tells us that of late years saving banks have been established which are subject to none of the safeguards required by Parliament for the control of these institutions. Mr. Crossley indicates another evil in the system, besides that the banks are open for only a few hours in each week. They are often managed by employers; and workmen do not care to deposit their savings in such institutions, lest the masters, discovering how prosperous their "hands" are, should cut their wages down. These are sufficient reasons why the system should be amended. Mr. Gladstone proposes to supersede it by a plan which we applaud heartily. His scheme is to establish a savings bank at every money-order office throughout the kingdom. Sums as low as a shilling may be paid in; and interest at the minimum rate of 2½ per cent is to be paid on deposits. The advantages of this plan are obvious. In the first place, the number of banks will be increased at once from 600 to about 2500. They will be open all day long and every day, inviting the passer-by to pay in his spare shilling, receive a deposit note, and become at once a saving man. We have all heard how easy it is to go on saving when once you have begun; here, at least, is every facility for beginning. Best of all, the depositor can have no doubt about the safety of his money. It goes at once into the coffers of the State, and the State is responsible for it.

Mr. Gladstone's plan has been warmly taken up in the House of Commons. For our own part, we back it cordially, believing that it will add very much to the prosperity and content of the most hardworking people in Europe.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN, in appreciation of the important character of the work of the Royal National Life-boat Institution (and its value has been signally shown during the late gales), has signified her intention to become an annual subscriber of £50 to its funds.

THE PRINCE OF WALES has presented £100 as a prize to be shot for at the meeting of the National Rifle Association.

THE KING OF PRUSSIA intends (says the *Frankfort Journal*) to proceed to Königsberg in May next to have himself crowned and to receive the homage of the country.

A LETTER FROM BERLIN states that the Queen of Prussia, accompanied by the Prince and Princess of Prussia, will visit the Queen of England in May.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON has just purchased for 25,000*fr.* one of the last paintings executed by M. Ingres. It represents the scene of Louis XIV. receiving Molière at his table in the presence of all the gentlemen of the Court.

THE KING OF HOLLAND, in a touching address to the people, calls on them to make throughout the kingdom, on the 19th, a collection for the sufferers from the inundations, which have so seriously distressed that country.

THE KING OF PRUSSIA is about to be invested with the Order of the Garter. A nobleman of high rank is about to proceed to Berlin to assist in the ceremony.

WALLIS, one of the principals in a prize-fight in which a man named Tabraham was killed, and Baldock, Tunpey, Cubit, and Neighbour, the seconds, have been committed on a charge of manslaughter.

MISS SHEEDON applied on Wednesday at the Court of Probate for a rehearing of her case before a jury. The application was not granted: she must apply to the full Court.

MR. GURNEY, M.P. for King's Lynn, has obtained a decree nisi in the Court of Divorce against his wife, who eloped some time ago with a footman in Mr. Gurney's service.

THE HUSBAND OF JESSE MERITON WHITE, ALBERTO MARIO, was last on the poll at the hustings of Ferrara, the taint of a supposed connection with Mazzini being no passport to any Italian constituency.

A TURIN LETTER says that, as soon as Victor Emmanuel shall be proclaimed King of Italy by the national Parliament, he will formally ask the Pope to accept the protection of the Piedmontese troops, and to consent to the withdrawal of the French garrison.

THE DEATH OF THE FAMOUS PHILOLOGIST, DR. DONALDSON, is announced. He died of hard work in his fiftieth year.

BIG BEN has found a deputy. The great clock at the Houses of Parliament strikes the hour upon the largest of the four chime-bells (or "John"), the quarters being indicated as usual.

A CLERK OF THE UNION BANK OF LONDON, who had been summarily dismissed from his employment on account of an error amounting to 6s. 6d., brought an action in the Sheriff's Court to recover a month's wages in lieu of notice. He was successful.

A PUBLIC MEETING was held at the Egyptian Hall, on Monday, on behalf of the St. Paul's Cathedral Fund. £9000 has already been obtained for the work of completing Sir Christopher Wren's design.

ADMIRAL OF THE RED SIR GEORGE MUNDY, K.C.B., died at his residence in Eaton-square on Saturday. The deceased veteran entered the Royal Naval Academy in 1789, and embarked in 1792 as midshipman on board the *Blanche* frigate.

AN ACCIDENT took place at the Crystal Palace station, on Monday morning, occasioning the death of two persons. They were crossing the line at the moment a train was coming up, and were instantly killed.

IN PARIS it is believed that the negotiations for a new treaty of commerce between France and Prussia are proceeding so successfully that the termination will be made known towards the middle of March.

THE IMPERIAL COURT OF PARIS has decided that a banker, when lending money to a person who is not a trader, nor borrowing for commercial purposes, cannot take more than the legal interest of five per cent without being liable to a prosecution for usury.

GENERAL Klapka is at Naples, engaged in organising the Staff of the future Hungarian legion.

THE FOLLOWING PREACHERS have been nominated by the Lord Bishop of London for the special services at St. Paul's:—Sunday, Feb. 17, the Lord Bishop of Cork; Feb. 24, the Lord Bishop of Carlisle; and March 3, the Rev. Thomas Dale, Canon of St. Paul's.

THE REV. S. BARBER, Warden of Winchester College, died yesterday week.

MR. COBURN has proposed that Switzerland should act as mediator in the difficulties between the States of America. The Federal Council has declined the proposal, declaring it to be impracticable.

MR. HAWKINS' COTTON-MILL, in Adelphi-street, Preston, was burnt down on Thursday week. The damage is estimated at from £30,000 to £35,000, which is partially covered by insurance.

THE CONTRACTORS' GANGS are working day and night at the new dock in Portsmouth yard, preparing for the reception of the Warrior. The men are relieved every eight hours, and work during the night by the light of furnaces. There is still an immense amount of work to be completed.

THE VICEROY OF EGYPT, about whose projected pilgrimage to the holy cities there has been much controversy, left Suva for Medina on Jan. 27 on board the steamer *Hedjaz*. He was accompanied by Kiamil Pacha, and Kurchid Pacha, the Governor of Alexandria.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE EASTERN COUNTIES COMPANY have determined to adopt a system of communication between the guard and engine-driver of a train.

THE CHALLENGE OF CHAMBERS, the celebrated champion of the Thames, to row Joshua Ward, of Newbury, United States, a right-away scullers' race of five miles on the River Hudson, for 2000 dollars a side, has been accepted by the American champion.

A PETITION to the Belgian Chamber of Representatives in favour of making French gold coin a legal tender in Belgium has been most numerously signed at Brussels during the last few days.

ONE OF THE SUFFRAGERS by the late explosion at Chatham, George Smith, a sapper, died from his injuries last week. The deceased was the man who caused the accident by the careless way in which he filled the fuse he was at work upon.

MRS. CATHERINE HAYES has started on a musical tour through Ireland. THIRTY-THREE LARGE CASES have arrived at the Louvre, forwarded by General Montauban, the spoils of the Celestial capital; being specimens of art in a vast variety of departments illustrative of Chinese civilisation or barbarism.

IN ANTICIPATION OF THE REDUCTION at Chatham Dockyard, several of the hired shipwrights and mechanics at that establishment have already requested permission to take their discharge, which has been granted them.

AN ATTEMPT is being made in Dublin to establish "A Book-Union," on the same plan as the Art-Union. Its proposed to have the subscription, 1*s.*, and to make the first prize £100, consisting of a bookcase well filled with the works of the best authors in the English language.

A LARGE BODY OF NOBLEMEN AND GENTLEMEN, soldiers, ministers, and men of letters, are combining to raise a testimonial to Sir James Outram—a statue, to be placed beside that of Havelock, and perhaps a service of plate.

IMMENSE QUANTITIES OF SOLES AND GRAY MULLET have been taken in the Solent lately. A bank has just been discovered where large numbers of the first-mentioned fish are caught.

THE BREAKING-UP OF THE ICE IN HOLLAND has increased the inundations to a great extent.

A LABOURING MAN, NAMED ARCH, was cleaning a fowhouse at Haresfield, near Gloucester, when a cock rove suddenly flew at him, drove his spurred feet into his face, and struck out one of his eyes.

LORD RANELAGH is arranging for a volunteer sham-fight at Brighton, to ascertain in what numbers and time a body of volunteers can be concentrated on a given point in the event of an emergency.

A TAME RABBIT got into the cradle of an infant child of a photographer at Hull, and ate away two fingers of one hand and a finger and thumb of the other.

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON has given a piece of ground for a new Wesleyan chapel in Norfolk. His Grace has also presented £50 to the building fund.

THE LAUNCH OF THE CHANTICLEER, 17, screw-corvette, took place at Portsmouth Dockyard on Saturday in a very satisfactory manner. The Speedwell screw gun-vessel of 3 guns, and the screw steam-frigate Bristol, have been launched at Woolwich.

THE ADMIRALTY, it is said, intend to cut down several of the largest and soundest line-of-battle ships, and convert them into plated steam-batteries for the defence of our harbours and coasts, but more particularly with reference to the defence of Spithead.

A SURREXON resident in the Isle of Wight explains that the Rev. Mr. Brockhurst, though "a highly talented theologian and clergyman, an erudite and accomplished scholar, an elegant gentleman, and a really benevolent, good man," is subject to severe attacks of aberration of mind. If this be the case, should Mr. Brockhurst be placed under surveillance?

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

It is the gossip of the town that, when a suggestion was made to Lord Palmerston that he should advise her Majesty to call Mr. Sidney Herbert to the House of Peers, his Lordship demurred, and would not consent until he had received an assurance that, by an arrangement between the Secretary for War and the Marquis of Bath, no opposition would be offered to the return of a Liberal for South Wiltshire as Mr. Herbert's successor. Of course, there must be some mistake in this statement; but unquestionably Mr. Sidney Herbert thought that the seat was secure, or he would not have vacated it, even for a peerage. The Government have been very unlucky of late, but the loss of this county seat is their worst misfortune, though it is to be feared that it is not their last, for I hear that the seat for the Pembroke boroughs is in danger. Aberdeenshire will hardly be a loss; for, though Lord Haddo was called a Liberal Conservative, he was always found in the Conservative lobby when he voted, which was not often.

The following is a list of the seats lost and gained by the Government since the general election in 1859. They have lost one for each of the following places:—Aylesbury, Ayrshire, Beverley, Boston, Dartmouth, Harwich, Leicester, Londonderry, Taunton, Wakefield, South Wilts, and for Gloucester two, making altogether 13. They have gained one for each of the following places:—Belfast, Berwick, Bodmin, and Pontefract, in all 4, which, deducted from 13, leaves a net loss of 9. This would make on a division 18 votes; but the two seats for Gloucester and one for Wakefield, though lost at present to the Government, have not been filled up; we must, therefore, deduct three from the 18, leaving a net loss on a division of 15, which will be increased to 17 if the Liberal should be defeated at Pembroke. Last week I made the number 18, but on going more carefully over the list, and checking my calculations by those of an election agent, I find that 17 is the right number. I need hardly, however, point out to you that an army on paper is not always realised in the field, especially in political warfare.

There seems to be no prospect of a formidable collision between the Government and the Conservative forces. It was thought that there would be a battle upon the Budget, which might lead to important results—a change of Government or a dissolution; but, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer will not propose to increase the income tax, it is hardly likely that any financial *casus belli* will arise. It has been confidently reported that an increase of the income tax would be proposed, but, on an authority which I deem to be most trustworthy, I venture to say that it will not.

The excitement about the "Seven Essays" is growing in intensity on the Episcopal bench, and, if we had a Henry VIII. or "a good Queen Bess" at the head of the Church, very short work would be made of the essayists; but, as everything now in such matters must proceed by due course of law, I am persuaded that the essayists are safe, for your laws and law processes are very ineffectual guards against subtle metaphysical heterodoxy. They are, indeed, very much like the expedient of the Cogge-hall farmer who put hurdles round his field to keep the fly off his turnips.

What is personality in print? Where does it begin, where end, and what should be its penalty. Two years since a writer, for flippantly and idly describing the person and manners of a living novelist, was expelled from his club and held up as a "pot-shot" for general abuse. "Serve him right" was the verdict of society. A month since a sketch of Mr. Abraham Lincoln, as minute in detail, as personal in every degree, appeared in *Once a Week*, and was eagerly copied into the first newspaper of the kingdom. Two or three months since the *Daily Telegraph* printed and commented on a circular addressed to members of the Tory party, marked "Private and Confidential." Last week the *Times* did exactly the same thing, and speculated as to the policy of contributing subscriptions to Mr. Cobden. Either the small offender was hardly dealt with, or the large offenders have unjustly escaped punishment. There is a rage now for venting odium on "London correspondents" of country papers. Every one has a fling at these unfortunates, and yet some of the most popular writers of the day, respected members of the staff of the very journals in which they are so severely handled, are or have been London correspondents of the provincial press. Regular news is to be found in the columns of the newspapers; it is the "correspondent's" duty to chronicle such floating gossip as is everywhere repeated, but which does not, at least for some time, get into print; and, so long as he betrays no confidences, and does not pretend to any absurd inspiration, his office is neither a contemptible nor a useless one.

Once more the British Institution has opened its doors to the public, and once more those artists of talent and renown who have been unfortunate enough to contribute have found their works hung in the most disgraceful places, while the posts of honour are occupied by wretched daubs. A sensible and well-written letter from Mr. Frith explains this anomaly. The hanging committee is unknown; the situations for the pictures are selected by certain directors of the institution, who have, undoubtedly, no knowledge of art, and who are influenced by private friendship in assigning the positions.

All readers of pure, healthy literature will welcome the second series of the "Recreations of a Country Parson," the contributions of A. K. H. B. to *Fraser's Magazine*. The new volume is characterised by the same bright spirit and kindly humour which distinguished its predecessor, and on every page bears evidence of being the work of an earnest, single-minded, clever, Christian gentleman.

The annual dinner of the Dramatic and Equestrian Sick Fund was held on Wednesday, and passed off with spirit. Good speeches were made by the chairman, Captain Vivian, Sir Charles Taylor, and Mr. B. Webster, and a specially humorous one by Mr. Thackeray.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

PRINCESS'S—LYCEUM—OLYMPIC—GOSSIP.

M. FECHTER has appeared at the PRINCESS'S as Don Caesar de Bazan. The character is a favourite one with an English public, and is well known to them through the impersonations of M. Frederic Lemaître and our own Mr. James Wallack. The readings of these two last-named gentlemen were very similar, and were marked by a reckless abandon and a great display of animal spirits. With them Don Caesar was a dissolute, drunken scamp, ready to set the hazard of his life on the turn of a die, and without the smallest evidence of any respect for his natural position or for morality. But this view of the character, harmonising as it did with the Don's first entrance and behaviour, was utterly irreconcilable with his subsequent chivalry, and it is accordingly discarded by M. Fechter, who never permits himself, even when at his wildest, to forget that he is a Spanish Hidalgo of the veritable "blue blood," and who comforts himself loosely enough, but with a jealous respect for anything touching on his honour and *foi de gentilhomme*. He is half intoxicated when the villain Don José first makes his base proposition to him, and he proposes to pass the few remaining hours of his life in an ultra-Bohemian manner, but he faithfully keeps the promise he gave as to not seeking to discover the identity of his wife, and goes to meet his death like a gentleman and a soldier. In the latter portion of the play, when the Don imagines his wife is intriguing with the King, M. Fechter brings all his expressive power of manly chivalry into play, and acts with an impassioned earnestness and a mixture of energy and grace which elicit thunders of applause. Every one really valuing and studying the histrionic art must be struck with the marvellous intensity of this actor's byplay; every change in his countenance, every movement of his limbs, is expressive in the highest degree, and all is done in the quietest manner, and without the smallest savour of clatter. It is a remarkable performance, and should be seen by all to whom thoroughly artistic acting is still dear. M. Fechter is well supported by Mr. Basil Potter, Mr. Shore, and Miss C. Leclercq and Miss Harris.

A melodrama, called "The House on the Bridge of Notre Dame," translated from a French piece of the same name, has been produced with success at the LYCEUM. The plot is long and complicated; but the interest centres in Mme. Celeste, who plays two characters—a young Frenchman, who is murdered for his property, and a gipsy boy exactly resembling him in face and figure, who is put forward by other villains as his representative, and effects her changes of costume and character with singular rapidity and effect. The scenery, too, is striking, and the piece, when properly compressed, will doubtless have a run.

The managers of the OLYMPIC have revived "The Sentinel," a musical burletta which had a small success in the days of Mme. Vestris, and which is now made noticeable by the sprightly acting and sweet singing of Miss Louise Keeley.

Years have elapsed since there has been any theatrical success to equal that of "The Colleen Bawn" at the ADELPHI. Nightly the house is crammed, and hundreds are turned away. At Easter Mr. and Mrs. Bourcicault go for a month to Dublin, where this favourite piece will be played. During their absence Mr. Webster will reappear at the Adelphi. On their return, Mr. Bourcicault's drama of "The Octoroon" will be reproduced. As this piece treats of the slavery question, the principal scene representing a slave sale (depicted by the author from actual observation), it will doubtless, at this time, create a very great impression.

Shortly M. Fechter will essay the character of Hamlet. Green-room gossip mentions that a new and original play by Mr. Craven, in which Mr. Robson has a powerful part, is in preparation at the OLYMPIC.

ASLEY'S AMPHITHEATRE will shortly come to the hammer. Mr. Batty having found his second leasehold a losing game.

The BIRCH THEATRE attached to Her Majesty's will shortly be opened with an entertainment given by Miss Grace Egerton and her husband, Mr. George Case, the well-known concertina-player. Mr. and Mrs. Case have been very successful during the last two years in the provinces, and are now naturally anxious for the stamp of metropolitan approval.

Literature.

Lady Elinor Mordaunt; or, Sunbeams in the Castle. By MARGARET MARIA GORDON, Author of "Work; or Plenty to Do, and How to Do It," &c. Edinburgh, Edmonston and Douglas.

An idea is widely spread that a work of imagination cannot, *de facto*, be a picture of real life. There is no greater fallacy. Every novel should in reality be a picture of real life, coloured with just as much imagination as will take it out of the commonplace that everybody has seen. Too often writers, from endeavoring to avoid commonplace, rush into the opposite extreme, and present the reader with a set of characters that (fortunately for society) never could exist. One fool, it is known, will make many; and that may account for the truthfulness of many of the so-called "fashionable" novels denounced by Mr. Carlyle as of the Minerva Press. But one wise man is not an attractive nucleus, and therefore it is impossible to account for those works in which no character condescends to speak except in terms and tones of mysterious, oracular wisdom.

"Lady Elinor Mordaunt" is one of those books full of characters for whom there is no accounting. In serious circles the *dramatis personæ* would be pronounced little below the angels; whilst very rude devourers of plot and passion would certainly consider them a set of fools. But perhaps the most correct opinion would be formed by the dispassionate *flâneur* of literature who can handle an oar, drive four-in-hand, bowl at the centre stuper, wait to perfection, be agreeable at supper, and smoke a sober cigar on the walk home. That is the kind of person who is best acquainted with society, and with what society should be; and he would describe Lady Elinor and everybody about her to be neither more nor less than so many bores. It is a harsh thing to say, but they are all bores—virtuous bores; too good for this world, as the saying is. The trifling amount of story in the book is scarcely worth the telling. Lady Elinor Mordaunt is the only daughter of the Earl of Mordaunt. Her mother is dead, and she has been brought up so imprudently that her time has passed in eternally embellishing chevrons, cross-crosslets, and helmets, with wyverns, eagles, and griffins on fields, wavy or otherwise, in *gules, argent, or.* The few hours which she devotes to conversation are carefully passed in expressing her indifference to, or disdain of, her inferiors. This child of sophisticated nature is at last "shown the path" by a young lady named Leslie North, an impossible angel of Evangelical principles, who leads her friend to devote her time, her wealth, and her talents for the good of her fellow-creatures in ignorance or distress. Lady Elinor marries well: Leslie is rewarded with a travelling missionary, an excellent little bit of character, probably suggested by the great and good deeds of Dr. Livingstone. Elinor has a brother, Lord D'Arcy, who finds "the path" for himself. He is disappointed in love with Leslie, and (most unnecessarily) loses an arm in a railway accident. He goes to Scotland to dissipate the wickedness on his estate there, and marries a Lady Helen Gordon, another fierce and furious stickler for the rights of the poor man. Then there is a Miss Hester Morris, whose lover dies abroad, which, of course, leads her to be impossibly good and to "find the path." As a reward she is paralysed, but recovers after ten years, just as the book is about to close, but has a relapse, and dies at the conclusion. There are other characters—Sir John Dunbar and Mr. North, very good specimens of well-meaning and well-doing English gentlemen, but who never open their lips, save to talk about the eternal "poor man." It is to be wondered how they ever found time to become good or rich themselves, considering that every moment appears to be devoted to the task of preventing or alleviating indigence or poverty in others. Old Dr. Brown is well drawn—one of those rough gentry who say everything that is good in as unpleasantly-humorous a style as possible, but whom people who know him cannot help loving and respecting for all that.

And so there is nothing but goodness in this book, and the book is, accordingly, spoiled. What would be unpleasant in a parlour will generally be found unpleasant upon paper. Had some of the characters had but a dash of good hearty wickedness the effect of contrast would have been gained, and the deleterious results of insipidity spared. The author, in her next story, had better make the young Lord enlist in a marching regiment, and if he can manage to be expelled college in consequence of some irregularities familiar to spinning-house chronicles it will be all the more like life and manners. Will the next heroine be good enough to break the heart of the next hero, and to mend it in time, before we come to the printer's name? And let us have an unrelenting father, an eloping daughter, even a fraudulent agent—anything rather than a combination of characters of such surpassing virtue that it is impossible to entertain for them feelings any other than those of the highest respect and admiration, and the most earnest desire to sleep.

Taking the book in any other light than that of a novel, we must esteem it highly for its thoughtful kindliness in all matters of social charity and religious culture for the poor. The author has considered these matters carefully, and is evidently well acquainted with the workings of more than one institution founded on different principles to the average of such undertakings, from the reformatory down to the workhouse. The writer systematically advocates prevention in preference to punishment and cure, and especially in the case of young girls—shows how this may be managed at an expense considerably less, and with an almost certainty of success. The chapter devoted to "Mistress and Servant" should be read by every householder.

To make minor objections, the propriety of putting Mr. Titus Salt

bodily into a novel may be doubted; although the account of "Saitaire" is given with freshness and vitality. However, something like it appeared in *Household Words*. Few people will agree with Lord D'Arcy that "trade is the noblest thing in the world;" and a young lady, making her first sentence in a book, should manage to avoid such expressions as snob, tuft-hunter, and toadying.

Life of the Earl of Dundonald, G.C.B., &c. By JOSEPH ALLEN, Author of "The Life of Nelson," &c. With Illustrations. Routledge and Co.

Thomas, tenth Earl of Dundonald, has of late received from the public press an amount of attention which makes it difficult to add another word. His "Autobiography of a Seaman," and "Narrative of Services in the Liberation of Chili, &c.," have been extensively discussed, and society has become almost unanimous in its verdict. If the Earl of Dundonald had not entered Parliament, or had he entered Parliament and served the Tory party, the Admiralty would have given him his choice of ships in any profession, and his fame and fortunes might have rivalled those of Nelson. As it is, in the little *Speedy*, of 11 guns (4-pounders), capturing fifty vessels in one Mediterranean cruise, and always against apparently overwhelming odds, he reminds us more of Sir Humphrey Gilbert and the Elizabethan "Generals at Sea." Nelson's victories were always on an enormous scale, and nearly sufficient to settle the destinies of the world for that time. Dundonald, in his earlier career at least, was of more benefit to English commerce afloat, and therefore to private interests, than to the English nation at large. But, as a sailor, that was no fault of his. The probability is that, had his offer been accepted, he would have destroyed the French fleet in the Scheldt, and saved the country the unpleasant memory of the celebrated "Walcheren Expedition." Also, had he been allowed by nervous Gambia, he would have destroyed (or the French Admirals themselves would) the French fleet in the Basque Roads. And, when Dundonald was eighty years old, there is a great probability that, with his scientific discoveries and inventions, he would have given such an account as we never had of the Russian fleets at Cronstadt and in the harbour of Sebastopol. The world will generally think Dundonald wrong for getting into Parliamentary fights at home when there were enemies of his country abroad. Mr. Allen is especially severe on his want of foresight in offending the Admiralty; but we cannot agree with him that "the great cause of Lord Cochrane's downfall was the charge he brought against Lord Gambier." His downfall had long been proceeding before that (or, indeed, he would never have been sent to join Gambier), and that was the time he should have seized for regaining his proper position. Had he at the Basque Roads but simply disobeyed orders, as his great predecessor Nelson would have done, there is little doubt that not one stick of wood or stitch of canvas in the French fleet would ever more have seen the open. Even the Board of Admiralty would scarcely shoot a sea-captain for disobeying orders when the said captain had eleven French men-of-war at his back, like so many testimonies to character. But there is nothing to be said—all argument ceases—of a man who is always losing his temper, and constantly losing it about trifles. Whether it be a case of wine, or a seaman's masquerading attire, Lord Cochrane was always in hot water. He appeared to like it, as he did hot fire and hot countries.

Mr. Allen's book is carefully written from the "Autobiography," from public papers, and from other sources. Its tone will be understood from these remarks. Dundonald must have been a strange Captain to deal with, especially if we may believe (and why not?) the picture of him given by Marryat in "Frank Mildmay." It will probably be remembered by the reader as the quaint and "long" Captain who so rashly but gallantly garrisoned Rosas, at infinite cost to the enemy. Marryat himself, as a "mid," was honourably mentioned in the affair.

Contes de Canterbury, Traduits en Vers Français, de Geoffrey Chaucer. Par le Chevalier de CHATELAIN. Tome III. Pickering.

The intelligence and ability of the Chevalier de Chatelain are as unquestioned as his industry, and that is as wonderful as the turn it has taken is unaccountable. Translating is at all times a most thankless task, one the execution of which is peculiarly open to criticism, and, as yet, not a living soul has ever meddled with Chaucer without being scolded by somebody. We are satisfied, however, that (as has been already said by some of our contemporaries) very many modern English readers who understand French well will be able to read Chaucer in M. de Chatelain's versions more easily than in his own antiquated English; and we commend the series to a place in the libraries of men of letters (who can afford to buy them) as real literary curiosities. The present volume has a dedication to the Pope, which is a very humorous and effective bit of writing, take it from whatever point of view you please.

Mysteries of Life, Death, and Futurity. Illustrated from the Best and Latest Authorities. By HORACE WELBY. Kent and Co.

This work is neither so dismal nor so startling as might be inferred from its grim title. It is a compilation from the best authors, over a great range of reading, on subjects which are of the greatest interest to all men of ordinarily strong minds. It is based, in structure as well as in appearance, on the works of Mr. John Timbs, save that the present chapters are not "Things Not Generally Known," or explanations of vulgar errors, but generally scraps of information, in the essay form, selected from "best and latest authorities." The first page answers the great question, "What is Life?" from the life of Cowley (quoting Plato and Simplicius) up to Bichat and Geoffroy St. Hilaire. Soon after comes a summary of the arguments for and against the "Plurality of Worlds," an account of the mystical "Tree of Life," "Eve's Apple-tree," and "How Cain Killed Abel," in which is quoted that magnificent couplet from Cowley's little-read "Davideis":—

I saw him fling the stone, as if he meant
At once his murder and his monument.

Another short chapter is devoted to a subject which not unfrequently, especially at the close of Parliament, adorns the "scrap-book" column of our provincial contemporaries—namely, the average of human life. We are inclined to take all the calculations for granted, just as Johnson recommended Goldsmith not to try certain experiments for his "Animated Nature," because the trouble of doing so throughout would be almost endless. Therefore we believe that there are upon the earth exactly 1,000,000,000 inhabitants, and that exactly one dies every second. By the way, that "all men live longer than short ones" we are inclined to doubt; nor is there any reason to object to the conclusion of the paragraph that "births and deaths are more frequent by night than by day" (p. 29), only that farther on (p. 120) the calculations as to deaths are very different, although both are taken from the *Quarterly Review*. From midnight to one o'clock the deaths are 63 per cent below the average, and that time must, of course, be considered as night; whilst the greatest mortality is from three to six in the morning, and that period is surely morning to an enormous majority of a population. The question of "Thirteen to dinner" is discussed, the Calculation of Probabilities, by Quetelet, being given, that the chance is that one of thirteen friends will die in a year, whether they assemble at dinner or not. However, Madame Richel gives an instance in which more than half the thirteen in company died; and probably if eminent people could remember thirteen dinner parties of last year, a remarkable year for eminent deaths, they might add extensively to their stock of superstitious belief. Mr. Welby's volume contains a remarkably curious paper called "How Men Dies," too embarrassing to be described; and it concludes with a good series on Eastern Superstition—"Serpent

Worship," "True and False Buddhism," with many other curious matters from all writers, and from all parts of the globe, which collects together a valuable array of the best thoughts, impressions, and beliefs on death, immortality, and kindred subjects. The book is not, it should be remembered, of so harrowing a character as these references would suggest. Thoughtful minds, with the most delicate nerves, may turn its pages over and over, and always find some information at once attractive and valuable—qualities not to be found in all books, even compilations.

Concerning some Scotch Secretaries. Edmonston and Douglas.

It can be no secret to anybody, we suppose, that this dainty little anonymous quarto of seventy pages is written by Mr. Cosmo Innes, the Professor of History at Edinburgh University. Unpromising as the title may appear to some people, the book—a booklet rather—is very entertaining, while its entertainingness is just such as bespeaks a scholar and a well-read man for the author. Scarcely anything is more striking, both in books and in conversation, than the difference between the "mere gossip" of the man who has nothing else in him and the "mere gossip" of the man whose gossip is the least of what he has to say for himself. So we recommend this "trifle," as the author calls it, and think it did not need the apology he makes in his preface:—"If my production is a fault, I have, at least, the poor Frenchwoman's excuse, that it is a very little one."

Mr. Innes mentions some "pedantic attempts to render homely names classical" which are scarcely credible. Yet he positively states that the matriculation-book of Edinburgh University in the seventeenth century is subscribed by one student named Blyth, who turned that into *Hilarius*, and by another named Colm Caldwell, who subscribed the oaths of admission as *Colinus a finto gelido*. This is quite as funny as *Punch's pondus homo* for Waitman, in an inscription proposed by him many years ago for the Waitman obelisk at the corner of Farringdon-street, or his *latus lapis* for Gladstone, in some more recent effort of the same kind.

The Castles of Edinburgh. By JOHN HEITON, Author of "Old World and Young World." Third Edition, much enlarged. Edinburgh: William P. Nimmo.

This exceedingly pleasant work is not much known to readers out of Scotland. The fact of this being the third edition will surely recommend the volume to English readers. With the addition made to the present edition Edinburgh is supposed to number twenty castles, any member of any of which would die rather than be intimate with any member of the class just below, whilst he will be proud to live if he can become intimate with the class above. The "Honeycombs," the very old and somewhat rotten holders of lands, will not associate with "paper lords." The merchants stand between the professions and the shopkeepers, and so forth. As for the legal gentry, they number at least half a dozen castles to themselves. One of the most amusing papers is the first, on "Edinburgh Ladies," in which the writer usually assumes any lady celebrated for beauty or wit, for sense or social way, to be Scottish, or of Scottish descent. Queen Victoria gets "her fine nose, her pearly teeth, and noble expression" from Walter Stuart and Bruce's daughter Margery. The Empress of the French is so fair as to be the wonder of the French simply because she inherits blood from the Closeburnians! Miss Gilbert (Lola Montes?), "destined to rule the heart and kingdom of Louis of Bavaria," is also claimed; and likewise a lady, to us unknown, who has "walked as mistress in the regal halls of Montezuma." As the writer has unkind words on the ladies of several other countries, it is but proper to inform him that there must always be a doubt concerning those who have need of a champion or an advocate. At all events, our English ladies can look and speak for themselves. Before quitting the ladies—they appear again as "Female Philosophers"—the writer says, after quoting a savage piece of Rochefoucauld, "It's all the same throughout—men don't like philosophical women;" whilst two pages further on he says:—

No wonder our Divorce Courts came to be used only by the English (they have got courts of anti-hymen of their own now), but few people knew the secret. It was not merely to get quit of their English wives—creatures destitute of all philosophy, of course—but to wed Scotchwomen in their places, whose philosophical face had got over the Borders.

And again:—

We wonder, indeed, say that in almost every case a philosophical wife is of advantage to a husband. If he is ignorant, will he not adore her?—if wicked, fear her? if learned, admire her? Then what superiority she assumes over her children. If they are petulant, she knows philosophically how petulance is to be treated; if they are rebellious, she quells them by love and reason; if quick of parts, they leap to her instructions; if dull of understanding, they are trained to efforts which will overcome, when directed by wisdom, even the most intractable clay.

Many of the chapters of this volume are admirably sketched. Especially good are "The Law Lords" and "Our Men of Genius," both of which classes might be supposed by present-day people to be a shade more addicted to claret and punch than is consistent with the gravity of the Bench, or the cultivation of that trust, the heavenly spark. But it may wisely be suspected that the tone of society copied here is that of the earlier part of the century.

Good as the book is—hearty, full of good sense and humour, teeming with brilliant anecdotes (especially in the foot notes)—a great part of it reads much like an indignant denial: a kind of "Who said the Scotch were not clever?" a kind of question which strikes the reader as premature. It is as if Sterne's ass had kicked in expectation of being thrashed.

"THE LION HUNT."

THE pictures of M. Horace Vernet represent reality in its most romantic form. Instant with life, motion, and action, the scenes which are represented on his canvas strike us at once as being amongst those rarely beheld twice by one man; but yet each of them is, as it were, a clear, distinct, and startling delineation of the very culminating point of the particular drama being enacted at the time.

This is especially the case with "The Lion Hunt," where the very moment of imminent peril and yet of victory is seized with a truth and power which seem to throw us into the whole whirl and excitement of the occasion. And in truth lion-hunting is no child's play, as the Arabs very well know; it is a sport which requires the union of intrepidity, strength, and promptitude, in an eminent degree. Very few men are capable of even joining a party who start such terrible game, for the horseman who takes any part in the mêlée should be incapable of hesitation and inaccessible to fear. Numbers do not always avail to secure safety against the monarch of the desert, for even when pierced by bullets, or maimed by yataghans, he is still a formidable foe, and, though three parts dead, is likely to concentrate his last effort in a savage bound upon his enemies, in which he may do deadly injury to life and limb.

It is not for pleasure that the Arabs run the chance of these desperate adventures. Before they enter on such an unde taking it is probable that the lion has more than once visited their domains, bringing with him devastation to their flocks and terror to their tents.

For this reason it becomes necessary, if possible, to decrease the number of lions as much as possible, so that their ravages may, little by little, be repaired; and the method adopted is, whenever possible, to discover the lairs of the beasts and seize the cubs during the excursions of the lion and lioness in quest of game. This plan is by no means unaccompanied by danger, however, since it is only necessary for the cry of the cub to reach the paternal or maternal ear, and, with a rush which might well shake the strongest nerves, the party find themselves the object of attack to both defenders of their young.

It is such a scene as this which the great French artist has so ably illustrated.



LION HUNT IN AFRICA.—(FROM A PICTURE BY HORACE VERNET.)



LONDON SKETCHES. NO. 3.—A DOG SHOW.

A DOG SHOW.

BESIDES cattle shows, and poultry shows, and fruit and flower shows, and rabbit shows, and Punch-and-Judy shows, and the annual showing of the Lord Mayor, there exist throughout London, in at least fifty different "slums," and corners, and crooked ways of the great City, establishments devoted to the "showing" of dogs. By name I have all along known of the existence of these places—knew that they had been in vogue since the days when there were public cockpits at Westminster and St. George's-in-the-Fields, and when hideous bulldogs drew badgers and aristocratic audiences at Hockley-in-the-Hole. With this extent of knowledge of the subject I should, doubtless, have remained content had not a philanthropic soul, yearning to establish a dog-hospital in a toolshed at Canonbury, inclined my sympathies doggishly, and resolved me to find out what a "dog show" meant.

The columns of *Bell's Life* revealed more than a dozen invitations of the sort I was desirous of complying with. East, west, north, and south of the metropolis were the exhibitions to take place; and, in at least nine cases out of ten, Sunday evening was the time appointed. Of the advertisements the following is a fair sample:—

"A Treat for the Fancy!—On Sunday evening next a show will be held at Mr. Lerinke's, 'Duck,' Bethnal-green—chair taken at eight o'clock, by Mr. Abrahams, faced by Billy Cool. Mr. Abrahams will produce his splendid stud of toy terriers on this occasion. Mr. Lerinke has a terrier, weight three pounds and a half, open to kill with any dog in the world at his weight."

The programme issued by the landlord of the "Lurcher," Waterloo-road, and mine host of the "Crown," Fiddler's-alley, Haymarket, and half a dozen others, all more or less resembled the above. My ignorance, however, put anything like choice quite out of the question, and I selected Mr. Lerinke's establishment simply because it was first on the list.

Passing Shoreditch Church, just as the good folk were flocking out therefrom, I took my way up the High-street till I came to a black, narrow gap in the face of it, between Church-street and the railway-station, and into it I turned; through Club-row, where the Sunday bird, and rabbit, and goat, and guinea-pig fair is held; past the "King of Clubs," where every evening, including the Sabbath, prize-fighting goes on, the fighters being chaffinches, and goldfinches, and canaries, the weapons their well-trained voices, and the prizes a "ten-pun'ote" or a German silver "waterpot," just as the birds' owners or backers may agree. Past these, through a lane or so, through a long alley, too narrow so to be called, and more like an accidental chink—a warp in the foul brickwork—and there was "Duck-street" and the "Duck" tavern, and the name of Lerinke written over the door. Following a man who wore a kennelish countenance and a close-fitting hairy cap, and who hugged something bulky within the breast of his coat in a manner highly suggestive of stolen goods, I crossed Mr. Lerinke's threshold and stood before his bar.

It was not a handsome bar. The wooden front of it was at least as dirty as the floor, and exhibited symptoms of long familiarity with hobnailed boots and lazy knees, while the grimy, battered metal counter was chequered with a chain-pattern of glazy rings. About the walls in glasses were preserved specimens of canine monstrosity, from the span-long terrier to the bulldog in all his full-blown hideousness. Men and dogs filled the

space before the bar, and behind the bar were Mr. Lerinke and Mrs. Lerinke, and a barmaid.

I was surprised at Mr. Lerinke's appearance. Knowing that he fought dogs and held stakes for amateur pugilists, and kept a rat-pit, and was frequently in the pit and up to his eyes in rats, I had expected to see a brawny fellow, with big muscles, and a way with him that even a bulldog could not mistake; on the contrary, I found him a small man, with an everlasting smile and an oily voice, the sort of man, in fact, you would expect to find carrying the big banner in a "total abstinence" procession, or cutting bread and butter at a love-feast rather than ruling among savage vermin and

hobnobbing with bulldogs and bulldog-men. I don't know the sort of breed it is, but there is a dog one occasionally meets in the street, a brown dog, one part spaniel and seven parts kennel cur; a dog with lean loins, and an inquiring nose, and pursed lips, and a bewildered where's-the-next-meal-to-come-from expression about his eyes; he plods along the road with a business air, as though, having at last argued down the proud little bit of spaniel in him, he was bound on a begging errand to a West-end relation. Now and then, however, he pulls up short and dead—"skidded," as it were, by that rebellious one-eighth of respectability, shakes his head miserably, and then forges along once more. Mr. Lerinke reminded me of this dog instantly. He looked exactly as it would have looked—just as beseeching and make-believe pleasant—if you had offered it meat on a skewer and wickedly amused yourself by pricking its nose with the sharp end before you threw it down. As for Mrs. Lerinke, she looked contented and happy, and the few small Lerinkes to be seen about the place seemed soundly booted and breeched, and well fed. In ordinary cases this would not have been remarkable, but in this case it was, inasmuch as it was hard to understand how a man with his heart so thoroughly set on dogs should trouble himself much about such trifles as wives and children. That his heart was set on dogs was clear. The loving sidelong glances he cast on them when he thought nobody was looking, the kindly purring noise he made while tenderly handling baby dogs, and the way in which he scratched their tiny polls and clucked to them, were ample proof of it. Conspicuous among the stuffed specimens on the walls was a murderous-looking bulldog in a handsome mahogany-and-glass case. The fate of this brute Mr. Lerinke was explaining to a gentleman who wore the head of a Skye terrier out of his coat-pocket as swells of the lower order occasionally wear their handkerchiefs. Had the defunct dog been an only son the little man could not have exhibited more emotion. He would not, he said, have taken fifty pounds on the nail for it; indeed, he had had forty-five pounds ten offered for it; but it wasn't likely! You might as well have offered forty-five ten for his biggest kid, or—in this the lowest whisper—the missus herself. Well, sir, he was pisoned! He was the best in the world—too good to live—so the vagabonds pisoned him. On a Sunday morning it was hearty and well one minute among their legs in front of this bar, and the next minute, hallo! on this side of the bar dead as paving-stones! Proosick acid did it! On a bit of meat!

The gentleman with the Skye terrier was so affected that he swallowed all his rum at a gulp, and hurried to a flight of stairs in the corner, and, thinking it probable that the stairs might lead to the show-room, I followed. I had guessed rightly. When the door was pushed open there belched out a cloud, so warm, so dense, so redolent of rank tobacco and spirituous liquors that only that a man came up close behind me laden with a snarling cur I think I should have retreated. In I went, however, and this is what I saw:—A long, narrow room, shallow from floor to ceiling as a church vault, and (by reason of the foul vapour) as gloomy, although there were several jets of gas burning. At the end of the room the flooring was raised a foot or so, and on this was the chairman's chair; and at the other extremity of the room was the chairman's "facer," proudly nursing a dreadful brute, with its jaws bound up with thongs of leather, and which I was confidently informed "was the handsomest brindled bull



THE CARNIVAL IN PARIS.—(A SKETCH BY VALENTIN.)

for miles round." Round the walls were more stuffed dogs and pictures of fighting-men and running-men, and of dogs killing rats, and of dogs and cocks killing each other. At one side of the room, and visible now and then through the many pairs of ragged legs that hemmed it in, was a great roaring fire, which was needful, for the night was very cold, and the draught came in at the gap at the bottom of the door, and in at the crazy windows, and in at a great hole in the ceiling from which the plaster had tumbled down.

Concerning the company. In my rambles round about the great metropolis I have fallen in with some curious company. I have passed an evening in a room with a large number of women and men, and where, had it been known that I was anything but a thief or a scoundrel at enmity with the law, I stood an excellent chance of being thrown out of the window or having my head knocked against the wall; I have supped with tramps and beggars in a Kent-street kitchen; but, with few exceptions, I never before saw congregated so many faces with "bulks" branded on them, so much brazen black-guardism, so much bare brutality, as was exhibited by Mr. Lerinke's guests.

There were, I should say, at least fifty of them; some with black coats and hats with curly brims, some in caps and flannel jackets, some with smocks and "ankle-jacks"—all, or nearly all, bull-necked, heavy-jawed, and with the hair dressed after a fashion known among its patrons as the "Newgate knocker" style—that is, parted in masses on each side of the head and turned under unnaturally. Every man possessed at least one dog, and as he sat at the table the animal was squatted by the side of his pot or glass, with his arm round it. These, however, were the "toy" dogs, marvels of shape and size—so small, some of them, that their weight is reckoned by ounces, and with limbs but little thicker than the stem of a tobacco-pipe, with beautifully-formed heads, and eyes full of intelligence. One could not help reflecting, after gazing first on the dog, then on its keeper, what a pity it was that the former should be tied to such a low-bred companion!

How did these beautiful little creatures come into the hands of their present owners is a question little less difficult to answer than another. Of what use are they to their masters? One may understand how affection may attach an honest man to an honest dog, or a ruffian to an able-bodied, ruffianly "brindled bull," but what gratification can a big, coarse-minded man enjoy by the possession of a "toy"? a thing without bark, or bite, or a single other quality assimilating with any one he himself possesses. One would as soon expect to find him keeping white mice or silkworms. "What is the value of that little dog?" I asked of a young man in a tattered jacket and a very dirty shirt, who was "showing" his terrier—weight two pounds and a quarter—against another. "I don't want to sell her," the young man replied; "twelve pounds is her worth—ten I'm offered for her."

Had there been no other than dogs of the "toy" school in the room the business of the evening would have been, no doubt, carried on in a much more quiet way. As it was, however, there were shrill-voiced rattling dogs, and fighting terriers, and fighting bulldogs, struggling and straining their leashes to get at each other, with their red eyes starting from their heads, and their black lips curled back from their fangs, howling, yelping, barking shrilly and spitefully, or growling with a deeper rage from the bottom of their wide, red throats; while their masters, savages as themselves, roared out horrid blasphemy, and staked their eyes and limbs on the swaggering lies they uttered and struck their great fists on the table to show they were in earnest in the wagers they offered to lay, and clapped hands together when the wager was made; while others, who had come on purpose to make a match and found a difficulty in "getting on" with any one, sat apart, stirring up their dogs to show their mettle, or clenching their muzzles and holding still their writhing limbs when for business reasons it was desirable that their tremendous courage should not be made too public.

Apart from the bustle and uproar sat two or three of the most miserable objects that could be imagined,—ragged, thin, and anxious-looking, and each accompanied by a gaunt, hollow-sided bulldog. I didn't ask their condition. It was too apparent. Like the poor fellow to whom some kind Indian acquaintance sent an elephant which he could not afford to keep, which nobody would buy, and which the authorities would not allow him to kill, so were each of these wretches afflicted with a bulldog, the only difference in the cases being that a fatal desire to belong to the "fancy," and not the whim of a friend, brought the calamity upon them, and that not sanitary considerations but infatuation obliged them to bear about the dreadful burden. So will they drag on a miserable existence, half starved, and cordially hating each other, till the workhouse doors, or others still more inexorable, part the wretched pair and break the spell. J. G.

THE CARNIVAL.

THERE is little meaning to an English ear in the word, and yet it expresses a very great occasion to thousands of men and women abroad. The preparations for inaugurating it have superseded the interest in the elections at Naples; have allowed even at Rome some few stray thoughts to retrace the liberty allowed to this strange festival in days when Popes held their power by a more secure tenure; and have carried the gay and sight-loving Parisians far beyond the Imperial Speech, the Bonaparte case, and all other serious topics, until the great night of the ball is over. Already the *Bœuf Gras* has gone his rounds, attended by such magnificence as his importance would seem to demand. The four sides of the car, in which the hero was drawn by four horses, were draped with crimson velvet, and a very fine effect was produced by the tail of the animal hanging in all its grand extension over and against the ruby curtain at the rear.

The procession was formed of the Garde de Paris on horseback, a comic band, cavaliers in strange costumes, and a car containing a sheep, attended by a little shepherd and shepherdess in a bower of roses, and dressed à la Watteau; then another group of horsemen; and, finally, the ox himself, followed by gamins and the general populace.

This, then, is the inauguration of a week in which Victor Hugo's description of the choosing of the Pope of Fools in the Palace of Justice might be eminently suggestive. It is a week in which dancers, grisettes, milliners, and costumiers combine to exhibit a frenzy of extravagance.

At Naples there will be a reinstatement of the ancient glories of the Carnival. Before, Francis II. saw treason in masked faces and threats in sugarplum missiles; and the new Government could scarcely have had any better opportunity of making themselves popular.

At Rome public expectation, which may be disappointed, already sees great preparations for a better observation of the vagaries of this strange festival, and balls are being organised in spite of the gloomy aspect of political affairs.

THE KING OF DAHOMEY'S SLAVE-HUNTS.—A deputation, consisting of the members of the committee and council of the African Aid Society, manufacturers, and others, waited upon Lord Palmerston on Monday to present a memorial urging that a subsidy be given to the King of Dahomey compensating him for relinquishing slave-hunting. The memorialists are of opinion that the amount of the subsidy could be obtained by a corresponding reduction in the cost of the African squadron. They also suggest that a special high commissioner be dispatched to the King, with full powers to negotiate. His Lordship acknowledged the importance to the Government of having the support of such associations, and expressed his hearty desire to carry out any practical suggestion that might be thrown out for effecting the ends desired. The deputation also waited upon Lord J. Russell with the same petition. In the course of his reply to the statements of the memorialists the Foreign Secretary said that, if it were consistent with the regulations on the point, he should be happy to appoint a Consul at Abbeokuta, a proceeding which, he thought, would be of great importance in aiding to extinguish slavery and promote legitimate commerce.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THE pantomimes have now happily been withdrawn at both the Operas, and it is said that the managers at each of these establishments have had enough of harlequinade to last them for many years. The generally-admired "Bianca" (which, after "The Four Sons of Aymon," "The Lovers' Well," "The Bohemian Girl," "The Devil to Pay," "The Bondsman," "Keolanthe," "The Rose of Castille," "Satanella," and a few other operas by the same composer is, in our opinion, Mr. Balfe's best work) had to be withdrawn at the very height of its success in favour of the pantomime. The same thing happened last year at the same theatre to Mr. Wallace's "Lurline," and this year, at Her Majesty's, the "run" of "Robin Hood" has been seriously interfered with by the inopportune production of "Jack and the Beanstalk." The scenery of "Jack and the Beanstalk" was well painted; and Mr. Payne is an admirable pantomimist—indeed, in his own particular line he is the greatest actor of the day (and he is a great actor, however we may put it, and with whomsoever we may compare him); but this does not alter the fact that, as a rule, operatic audiences do not care for pantomimes, nor pantomimic audiences for operas. A line will suffice to record the production at the Royal English Opera of "Hiawatha"—an arrangement in the cantata form of Longfellow's well-known poem, with music by Robert Stoppel. The music made rather an unfavourable impression. Not so the declamation of Miss Heron, who reads intelligibly, who has a soft, sympathetic, yet powerful voice, and who, with but few opportunities for displaying it, convinced us, nevertheless, that she possesses true tragic genius.

WRECKS DURING THE LATE GALES.

AN extraordinary number of wrecks took place round our coasts on Saturday. In Kingstown harbour no less than thirteen small vessels were lost, and one terrible catastrophe took place. Captain Boyd, of her Majesty's ship *Ajax*, with a detachment of his men, thirteen in number, were on the pier endeavouring to save the crew of a vessel which had gone ashore at the back of the pier, when a tremendous wave swept them into the sea. They were all lost; and many lives were lost beside these. Eleven ships were completely wrecked in or near the harbour.

On the north-east coast the gale played fearful havoc with the shipping near land. From Shields we receive the worst accounts. About half-past seven on Saturday morning the schooner *Fowls*, from Inverness, drove on to the Head Sand, and drifted amongst the stones of the South Pier. No less than four life-boats put out to the assistance of the crew, and many a gallant struggle was made to get alongside. The Providence life-boat was stove in four places, but all proved ineffectual to get alongside the vessel. It was attempted to throw a line from the shore. That did not succeed. The apparatus for saving life was thereupon got on board one of the life-boats—the *Tyne*—and fired, and a line was got to the vessel by this means. The captain, Mr. Fraser, and the mate, Farquhar Fraser, were saved, when the line broke. Peter M'Kenzie, a sailor, swam to the life-boats and was also saved. George Patience, Alexander Patience, and Hugh Fraser were left on board; and in the presence of an immense number of sympathisers the life-boats struggled on for three hours in their endeavours to save them. They could not succeed. The tide rose and the wind continued to rise with it with fearful violence. The waves lashed and beat over the doomed vessel, the men clinging to the rigging and deck until the vessel began to break up. Alexander Patience and Hugh Fraser clung to the deck, George Patience to the side of the vessel. About half-past eleven the vessel parted, the two last mentioned men being swept away amongst a mass of wreck, within a hundred yards of the shore, and, in the presence of 1500 people, perished. The scene was awful. One of the life-boats made several gallant attempts to save the other man, but could not reach him. He drove ashore, holding by the stanchion of the deck, caught a line, and was dragged to land, amidst immense cheering. Many other ships were wrecked near Shields, and the loss of life was terrible.

Off the Yorkshire coast the gale was terrific. The Whitby district was the scene of serious calamities. The gale being from the north-east, there was no chance for any craft to avoid the iron-bound coast, and, no harbour of refuge being in existence, the loss of life and property has been most appalling. Seven ships were driven on shore at Whitby, and three of them almost immediately broke up. The new life-boat was launched and succeeded in saving all the crews. When proceeding on their fifth errand of mercy a violent sea caught the life-boat, which was capsized, and twelve of her brave crew perished within twenty yards of the shore, where thousands were assembled, unable to render the slightest succour. It should be stated that the life-boat was not one of those belonging to the National Life-boat Association.

Off Liverpool several minor wrecks took place. The loss of life and shipping in Hartlepool Bay, on Saturday, appear to have been fearful. Many ships entered the two tidal harbours and were saved; but in the course of the day upwards of fifty ships were wrecked. About thirty of them were total losses, and eight foundered with every soul, while thousands of persons on shore were looking on unable to render assistance. A sad catastrophe happened in the vicinity of Wells, on the Norfolk coast. While the gale was at its height on Saturday morning a barque, called the *Favorite*, was driven on shore on the Blakeney West Sands. Immediately a party of eight fishermen ventured to the rescue of the barque's crew. The sea was running high, and on nearing the sands the boat capsized, and all the poor fellows were drowned.

While the gale was at its height on Saturday morning her Majesty's steamer *Seamew*, on her passage to Kingstown, saw a ship in distress on the Arklow Bank. It was at first supposed that she was a steamer; but since the storm had abated the ill-fated vessel has turned out to be the *Tonquin*, Captain Batchelor, bound to Santos, from the Clyde. After striking on the bank the heavy seas carried her off into deep water, and she foundered, all on board—eleven men and a woman—perishing.

The heaviest loss, as far as regards sacrifice of property, was that of the wreck of the iron-built ship *City* of Lucknow, belonging to Mr. Smith, of Glasgow, bound to Calcutta, with a very valuable cargo. The ship, which is nearly 1200 tons burden, only sailed from the Clyde on the day previous to that of her loss, and on arriving off the Bay of Bangor, near Belfast, she drove ashore and became a wreck. The crew and five passengers, with the exception of a sailor named Nelson, were saved.

The Irish papers are filled with the most heartrending accounts. The wrecks which fill the harbour of Kingstown, or the shattered fragments which strew the angry and foaming waters from the Tuscar Light to Belfast Lough, furnish but a meagre index of the devastation. Many ships have unquestionably gone down, of which no account will ever be given.

By the returns made by Lloyd's agent up to Wednesday evening the number of losses and casualties that occurred during the recent storm amounted to 210.

The life-boats of the Royal National Life-boat Institution have been instrumental in rescuing the crews of the following wrecked vessels during the heavy gales of the last few days:—Seaton Carew life-boat, eight men from the brig *Providence*, of Warkworth; also eight men from the brig *Mayflower*, of Newcastle; Redcar life-boat, ten men from the brig *Roman Empress*, of Sunderland; Penmon, Anglesea, life-boat, four men from the schooner *Village Maid*, of Fleetwood; Rhyl life-boat, five men from the schooner *William*, of Liverpool; Arklow life-boat, five men from a vessel, name at present unknown; Wicklow life-boat, eight men from the brig *New Draper*, of Whitehaven; Skerries, in the county of Dublin, life-boat, five men from the schooner *Margaret Ann*, also four men from the smack *Gipsy*, of Newry; Carnaroe life-boat, nineteen men from the barque *Guyana*, of Glasgow; making a total of seventy-six persons saved from a watery grave during the last few days. Throughout these

numerous services of the life-boats of the National Life-boat Institution not a single accident has happened, either to its boats or to their crews.

Admiral Fitzroy, in a letter to the newspapers, distinctly asserts that every frequented port of our coasts might have received information of the coming gale three days before it burst. The event was predicted with as much certainty as an eclipse, and could have been announced by signals as conspicuous as fiery beacons. The information was actually telegraphed to several places. Aberdeen, Hull, Yarmouth, Dover, Liverpool, Valencia, and Galway were apprised of the impending storm in the plainest terms. Notice was sent to those ports as follows:—"Caution.—Gale threatening from south-west, and then northward. Show signal-drum." Now, as all points of our coasts are connected by telegraphic wires, and as there can be no difficulty in showing signals of this description, we think it highly desirable that the system should be established without delay. The plan, though organised at the Board of Trade, is not yet, we are told, in full practical operation, but, as the details cannot involve much trouble or cost, the sooner the scheme is introduced the better. As it is we should like to know whether notice of the gale was received at the points where it proved most disastrous—at Hartlepool, Shields, or the Irish ports which have been so severely visited. If the notice was given, was it observed or was it turned to account by those for whose profit it was intended?

LUNATICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

By the report from the Select Committee on Lunatics in England and Wales, recently published, it appears that the number of patients in 1844, 1858, and 1859 was as follows:—

	1844.	1858.	1859.
In Private Establishments	3,790	4,612	4,762
In Public Asylums, Workhouses, &c.	16,921	30,735	31,200
	20,611	35,347	35,962

Thus, the increase of lunatics, unhappily, is considerably in excess of the increase of population between the above periods. Taking the above figures as approximating closely to the truth—for we believe that great pains have been taken to procure accurate returns—it appears that out of every 600 persons in England and Wales one, at least, is in such a state that, in many respects, he is incapable of managing himself and his affairs. A vast proportion, it is believed, are cases of natural idiocy or of mental imbecility, arising from age, epilepsy, fits, and other causes, where the malady may be regarded as chronic or incurable; but the committee are of opinion that, with regard to the others, 50, 60, or even 70 per cent are capable of cure, if taken in time and carefully treated. The committee are also of opinion that the laws relating to pauper lunatics detained in workhouses are in an unsatisfactory condition, and that a large proportion of persons are kept in workhouses in an idle state, being considered lunatics, who are nevertheless, capable of useful and regular occupation. The class of criminal lunatics appears to occasion great trouble and perplexity. They have, hitherto, been sent to Bethlehem Hospital; but, as the committee justly remark, this practice is productive of very serious evils, for many persons who have committed crimes are acquitted on the ground of insanity, though they are really sane. Others, again, have been perpetrators of such heinous crimes that, though they may partially or even wholly recover, it would not be safe to let them loose again upon society. To remedy these evils, and to prevent these classes mixing with the ordinary patients in Bethlehem, it has been determined to erect a State Asylum for the special reception of criminal lunatics; and such a building is now in course of being built at Broadmoor, in Surrey, on plans which have been submitted to the Commissioners in Lunacy, and approved by the Secretary of State.

SHOCKING SAWYER ACCIDENT.—Yesterday week a painful occurrence took place in one of the City sewers, by which four men lost their lives. Having entered by the manhole in Seacoal-lane to follow their occupation, and not making their appearance at the proper time, a search was commenced, when the bodies of three of the unfortunate men were discovered and brought to the surface. The fourth was found near the grating at the entrance to Union-street, Blackfriars. The evidence as to the cause of death is clear enough. Three died from the inhalation of carbonic acid gas; the fourth was drowned, having no doubt fallen into the water from partial suffocation. With respect to the source from which this noxious gas was engendered, there was no evidence at the opening of the inquest, and an adjournment therefore took place. The City Commission of Sewers have ordered an investigation into the origin of the accident.

THE DAHOMEY "CUSTOM."—Another barbarous affair has taken place at Dahomey. The *West African Herald* publishes a statement from which we learn that the recent "grand custom" of Badahung, King of Dahomey, was one of the most revolting which had ever taken place. Several persons agree in stating that the number of victims slain on the occasion was estimated at 2000, but another correspondent gives the number at 7000. He says he was present by compulsion, and that the blood swept past him like a flood into a large reservoir. The poor wretches met death with perfect indifference. The *Herald*, which gave Government notice through its columns many months since of the intention of the King of Dahomey to hold an annual "grand custom," in remembrance of the death of the late King, concludes the recital of these barbarities by stating that "Consul Foote has come out with full powers to 'treat' with the King of Dahomey as to the abolition of these human sacrifices."

NOBLES AND PEASANTS IN RUSSIA.—A Warsaw letter states:—"Public opinion, which is here generally very silent, has been recently aroused by a fact which is somewhat important in a local point of view. Colonel Leucette has been sent to the fortress of Zamok to be imprisoned for several years. He killed, in a fit of passion, several of the peasants on certain property which the State had made him a present of. In the time of the Emperor Alexander he could only have received a simple reprimand, but the Emperor Alexander views these affairs in a different light. His Majesty ordered the Colonel to be brought before a military tribunal; and, the Court having shown itself too lenient, he ordered a fresh trial, which ended in a condemnation."

SEIZURE OF AN ENGLISH VESSEL BY SPANIARDS.—Much excitement has been occasioned at Gibraltar by the seizure of an English felucca, the *Louisa*, by a Spanish revenue-cutter, the excuse being that the vessel was engaged in smuggling, while in reality she was on a lawful voyage to Tetuan, which is now a free port. The *Gibraltar Chronicle* says she was boarded within a mile and a half of the Rock. "It appears that there were on board two bales of tobacco which had been shipped at the last moment, and were not on that account entered on the vessel's manifest. This fact was made the pretext for detaining the vessel. But the commander of the revenue-boat appears to have shrunk from the commission of so flagrant an illegality without the assurance of support from his official superiors. He therefore left the *Louisa* in charge of three of his armed crew, with orders to cruise in the bay until his return. About midnight the revenue-cruiser returned, the commander apparently having obtained official approval of his act, and the *Louisa* was taken to Algeiras. The cargo was landed, and the matter carried before the District Tribunal of Algeiras, which, on the 28th ult., pronounced a decision declaring the *Louisa* lawful prize."

NEWS FROM HAITI.—A considerable immigration of free coloured persons from the United States to Hayti is taking place under the supervision and at the expense of the enterprising Government of the latter Republic. Not only is the expense of the passage of the immigrants defrayed by the authorities, but on their arrival in the country they are presented with free grants of land in a fertile district, and are provided with board and lodging until they are suitably located. In this way the Government, as rapidly as their means will admit, are giving to Hayti that increase of population which will enable her to cultivate on a larger scale the rich productions of her soil. It is worthy of remark that all the immigrants are being planted in the plains of Artibonite, a country which is capable of producing two millions of bales of cotton per annum.

LOSS OF HER MAJESTY'S SLOOP CAMILLA.—Vice-Admiral Sir James Hope has transmitted to the Admiralty the following extract of a letter, dated the 8th of December, written by the master of the *Ivera*, which appears to confirm the idea that her Majesty's sloop *Camilla* foundered at sea:—"On the 27th of October, being seventy miles south-east of Cape King, I passed a large lower mast, with top on it, scraped bright, and evidently not in the water for a very long period; it well could have been considered as a mast of a man-of-war brig."

THE *Court Journal* gives currency to the absurd story that the pecuniary resources of which Don Juan disposes have been supplied by the Bible Society of London, and that, in return, he has undertaken to establish liberty of worship in the event of his becoming Sovereign of Spain!

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